

# Bonn for Beginners

A Guide for Newcomers

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**Imprint**

## **Part 1**

### **1.1 Bonn in Brief**

#### **Geographical Location:**

Bonn, the gateway to the romantic Middle Rhine, is situated north of the Siebengebirge hills on the southern end of the Cologne Bight (50° 43'14" north, 7° 7'4" east).

Roughly three quarters of the city extend over an area west of the Rhine and one quarter east of the river.

#### **Climate and Weather:**

Temperate weather dominates in winter, usually bringing little snow and few days of frost or ice. Summers are continental; with an average temperature in July of over 18° C. There are a number of summery days, which may include some very hot days. Average annual precipitation: 669 mm.

#### **City Area:**

Total area: 141.2 km<sup>2</sup>. Built-up area: 46.9 km<sup>2</sup>, or roughly one third of the total city area. Forests extend over 39.5 km<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Tallest Structures:**

The radio transmission mast on Venusberg (180m), the Post Tower (162m), the Main Building of the United Nations Campus (117m), the smokestacks of the Southern Thermal Power Station (99m) and the recycling plant (98m), the steeples of the Minster (86m), and the City Hall (72m).

#### **Population Structure:**

As in 2010: 317,595 inhabitants.

76,474 citizens with a foreign background, coming from 176 different countries, are registered in Bonn. In addition to this, around 800 diplomats, embassy personnel, United Nations staff and their families - a total of about 2,500 persons - live in Bonn. Citizens of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS, the former USSR) form the largest group of immigrants (12.2%), followed by the Turks (11.1%) and the Poles (8.7%)

Approximately 39.4% of Bonn's population is Catholic, 22.1% Protestant and 38.5% is of other religious denominations (9.1% Muslims) or agnostic / atheist.

#### **Employment in Bonn:**

Bonn provides over 208,000 jobs at more than 16,000 places of work. Over 86% of the wage earners in Bonn work as civil servants in administrative positions or as

salaried employees in the private service sector. More than half of those employed in Bonn live outside the city.

Out of the total number of 144,000 wage earners that live in Bonn, but may be employed elsewhere, 75.4 % work as civil servants or salaried employees.

### **Bonn City Council:**

80 members (Christian Democratic Party - CDU 27, Social Democratic Party - SPD 19, Green Party - Bündnis90/Grüne 15, Free Democratic Party - FDP 10, alliance of citizens Bürgerbund 3, leftist party Die Linke 3, alliance for peace and fairness Bündnis für Frieden und Fairness 2, rightist party Pro NRW 1).

### **Mayor:**

Mr Jürgen Nimptsch, SPD - Social Democratic Party

## **1.2 Local Self-Government in Bonn**

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the Basic Law guarantees cities the right to self-government. The City Council, in its capacity as a representative body democratically elected in regular elections, is in charge of local self-government. The Council of the City of Bonn currently consists of 80 members. It is responsible for all the concerns of the city, particularly for taking fundamental political decisions. The Council sets up committees, such as the Committee on International Affairs and Science, the Committee on Social Affairs, on Urban and Transport Planning as well as the School Board, for instance, to support its work and assist its decisions.

The Mayor is elected by the citizens in a general, direct, free, equal and secret election for a term of six years. He or she is the chief representative of the City, chairs the City Council (which is elected for a term of five years) and is primarily responsible for the leadership and supervision of the administration.

Citizens of the four districts of Bonn - Bonn, Bad Godesberg, Beuel and Hardtberg – elect their district representations at the same time as the City Council elections, also for a term of five years. The district representations are in charge of all matters relevant to their district within the framework of municipal concerns. They provide an element of grassroots administration and have legally defined decision-making jurisdiction, for example over equipment and maintenance of the district schools and public facilities.

Foreign citizens elect a Foreigners' Advisory Board (Ausländerbeirat) to safeguard their special interests, in general, direct, free, equal and secret elections. The Foreigners' Advisory Board deals with all matters pertaining to the community. Its proposals must be submitted to the City Council.

The City Administration consists of the Mayor, his or her Deputies, and related administrative offices and their executive directors. Most of the offices are housed in the City Hall (Stadthaus, Berliner Platz), and thus centrally located. However, the district administrative offices located in the centre of the respective city district deal with a great number of administrative matters, providing a range of citizens services directly in the city district.

For more information regarding the city administration and its organizational structure, visit [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de).

## **1.3 History of the City**

### **First Human Traces**

The first traces of human existence in what is now the City of Bonn date from as far back as 50,000 years ago, but only the dog of Oberkassel has risen to lasting fame. After all, it is the world's oldest recorded pet, having accompanied a human couple at around 12,000 B.C. The elevated fortification on Venusberg is a good 6,000 years old, the oldest in Germany, even older than Babylon and the Egyptian pyramids.

### **The Romans**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. the Germanic tribe of the Eburons lived on the western side of the Rhine. They were wiped out by Caesar during the Gallic War. In around 30 B.C. the Ubiers built a fortified settlement on the flood-resistant site where the Bonner Altstadt quarter is situated today and with which the name of Bonn is associated.

When Emperor Augustus prepared to conquer free Germania on the eastern side of the Rhine and turn it into a Roman province, a general, who was also his stepson, built a bridge spanning the Rhine from Bonn to the other side in around 11 B.C. He secured it militarily, a good reason for Bonn to celebrate its first written mention by the Roman writer Florus over 2000 years ago.

In order to prepare for the founding of Cologne, successors to Augustus transferred the two legions stationed there, one to Neuss, the other to Bonn, where it was based north of the Altstadt. The "Castra Bonnensia", or Bonn camp, was immediately put to the test by the Batavi revolt recounted by the famous historian Tacitus. The camp accommodated Roman soldiers for nearly four centuries as part of the Lower Germanic Limes. Seeing as the soldiers needed provisions, a civilian settlement grew up around the camp to provide supplies and skills. Moreover, many estates were established in the surrounding area.

About 14,000 people may have lived in Bonn in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, many more than during the Middle Ages that followed the Roman presence.

The town patrons of Bonn, Cassius and Florentius, two early Christian martyrs, were buried in one of the Roman cemeteries. Around the year AD 400 one of the first churches was built on their grave, the precursor of the Bonner Münster (Bonn Minster), which was completed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The canonry convent, adjacent to the church, one of the finest in the Archbishopric of Cologne, became a religious and cultural centre.

### **From Camp to Country Town**

At around the turn to the second millennium the growing settlement swallowed the market village of Dietkirchen situated on the site of the former Roman camp and adopted Bonn as its name. During the High Middle Ages the ruler of Bonn, the Archbishop of Cologne, enlarged an ancient junction, turning it into Bonn's large marketplace, a first step for the civic settlement dominated by business and trade to become a town. In 1244 Archbishop Konrad von Hochstaden, founder of the Cologne Cathedral, ordered the citizens of Bonn to fortify their town with a wall. Later, in 1286, his successor, Siegfried von Westerburg, gave permission for a council to be elected: Bonn was now a fully-fledged country town and part of the Cologne electorate.

The archbishops frequently visited their town of Bonn situated as it was next to Godesburg palace. After the Battle of Worringen it became their favourite residence,

seeing as the victorious citizens of Cologne now only opened the practically free imperial town to their Archbishop in his capacity as head of the church, but no longer as the ruler of the electorate. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Bonn - as the political centre of the Archbishopric of Cologne – became the focus of a bid to support the reformation. Bonn, officially designated as capital and residential city in 1597, owes its development as a baroque city to the five archbishops and electors of Cologne from the Bavarian House of Wittelsbach.

Prince Elector Joseph Clemens built the Residential Palace (now the University) and Poppelsdorf Palace in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Clemens August, his successor, completed the building works, had the tree-lined Poppelsdorfer Allee boulevard laid out and entrusted the famous architect Balthasar Neumann with the building of the Holy Staircase on the Kreuzberg. In neighboring Brühl, the splendid Augustusburg and Falkenlust palaces were built. They have become famous throughout the world on account of sumptuous state receptions given there by the Federal Republic of Germany. At about the same time, in 1738, Prince Elector Clemens August laid the cornerstone of Bonn's Old Town Hall.

After 180 years of Wittelsbach rule over the Rhine, there was little time left for the last two electors of Cologne to carry on the development of Bonn. In 1770, during the time of Max Friedrich von Königsegg, Ludwig van Beethoven was born in the Bonngasse, and Max Franz of the Habsburg dynasty, the younger son of Empress Maria Theresia, founded the beautiful classicist Redoute ballroom and casino. It was also the venue of important state receptions during Bonn's period as Germany's capital.

In 1794 the revolutionary French occupied Bonn, the time of the electors of Cologne had passed, the town became impoverished and the number of inhabitants decreased. At the Congress of Vienna (1812/13), the Rhineland was allotted to the Kingdom of Prussia. For the first time, the Bonn region was put under one common rule following the centuries of governance from Cologne on the western side of the Rhine, and "Bergisch" rule on the eastern side.

## **Town and Gown**

In 1818, the founding of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University, named after the Prussian king, was of great cultural and economic significance. Bonn turned into a Mecca for the sciences and humanities and gained a worldwide reputation in certain fields.

The professors Arndt - Bonn's most famous citizen after Beethoven - Schlegel, Hertz and Argelander should be mentioned in this context, to name just a few. Students, later to be famous in their own right, carried the reputation of the Bonn alma mater into the world. Among them were Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Adolf Kolping and the great French politician Robert Schuman, while the distinguished army of the royal hussars added to the social glamour before World War I.

The scenic location of Beethoven's city, greatly praised ever since the Romantic Movement and its high intellectual and cultural standards prompted many bankers, rich merchants and wealthy pensioners to settle in Bonn and Godesberg around 1900. Later on, a large number of their sumptuous villas housed government agencies and embassies between 1949 and 1999. Villa Hammerschmidt is still the second seat of the Federal President and Palais Schaumburg houses the second office of the Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt); the latter forms part of the

exhibition area of the Museum of Contemporary History of the Federal Republic of Germany (Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland).

## **Capital Overnight**

The high rate of inflation following World War I impoverished Bonn. The decision by the university in 1936 to strip Thomas Mann of his honorary doctorate damaged its reputation all over the world. Bonn too played its part in the deportation and murder of Jewish citizens during the National Socialist dictatorship.

The city's rise to the status of provisional and then long-term capital of the Federal Republic of Germany was totally unforeseen and came as much as a surprise to the city as it did to its inhabitants. It was precisely Bonn's insignificant political past in comparison to the rival city of Frankfurt that seemed to best guarantee the desired provisional character and mark the decentralized power structure of the Federal Republic.

Bonn's location on the Rhine symbolized the German policy of integration into the democratic West pursued by Konrad Adenauer, the first Federal Chancellor. The relatively low levels of destruction inflicted upon the city during the Second World War and the existence of a suitable conference building - the former Pedagogical Academy - made it possible to accommodate the deputies, federal employees, as well as foreign missions and journalists. In August 1948 the die was cast in favor of Bonn as the seat of the Parliamentary Council, and in May and November 1949 as seat of the federal organs.

Thus, in 1989, Bonn celebrated not only the 2000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first written mention, but also its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany.

## **1.4 The Federal City of Bonn – Some Facts and Figures**

The following framework forms the legal basis for Bonn's status today:

Bonn-Berlin Decision - 20 June 1991

Bonn-Berlin Law - 26 April 1994

Compensation Agreement - 29 June 1994

The Bonn-Berlin Law of 26 April 1994 gave Bonn the title of "Bundesstadt" (Federal City). The name affirms that Bonn continues to fulfill important political responsibilities after parliament and parts of the government moved to Berlin in 1999. The Law stipulates a "permanent and fair division of labor between the Capital City of Berlin and the Federal City of Bonn" and assigns five political areas to Bonn:

- Education and Science, Culture, Research and Technology, Telecommunications
- Environment and Health;
- Food, Agriculture and Forestry;
- Economic Cooperation and Development Policy,
- Defense.

Six Federal Ministries still have their first seat in Bonn. All ministries based in Berlin maintain branch offices in Bonn. As a compensation for the loss of government functions, more than 20 supreme national authorities and institutions have relocated from Berlin and Frankfurt to Bonn. These include:

- the Federal Cartel Office (Bundeskartellamt)
- the Federal Court of Audit (Bundesrechnungshof),
- the Federal Social Insurance Authority (Bundesversicherungsamt) and
- the Federal Banking and Federal Insurance Supervisory Offices (Bundesaufsichtsämter für Versicherungs- und Kreditwesen),
- the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz) – branch office
- the Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt) - branch office
- the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte),
- the German Society for International Cooperation (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ) with its first seat
- the German Development Institute (Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, DIE)

The Federal President is keeping Villa Hammerschmidt as his second official residence.

The Compensation Agreement, signed in June 1994, was a package designed to foster the growth of the unique Bonn region at the heart of Europe. The Federal Government committed itself to paying Euro 1.43 billion to Bonn and the region over ten years.

Essentially, the funds were invested in job creation programmes in different fields. In addition, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and third parties contributed significant sums, adding up to a total of Euro 1.74 billion available to Bonn and the region to accomplish its significant structural change.

## **1.5 Bonn's New Profile**

Bonn's role as the Federal City will be guaranteed. The loss of jobs to Berlin was compensated for by the relocation of federal institutions to the Bonn region.

But the new contours of Bonn and its region have become more and more clear. A reorientation has now been achieved - away from the primary focus on politics and towards high quality and variety in the fields of international science, research and education, innovative business and international expertise focusing on the environment and development cooperation. In the meantime, Bonn has gained an excellent reputation for uniting actors in these fields and for enabling them to advance future-oriented issues, especially in the sustainability field. The city has not only become a leading center of expertise in environmental and developmental issues, but actively supports this development by organizing international conferences and by highlighting key global issues in its own day-to-day affairs.

Bonn's natural advantages are its superb location in the centre of the European economic zone and excellent connections via road, rail and air, which were further

enhanced in 2004 when the Cologne-Bonn Airport was linked up to the ICE rail network.

The blue United Nations flag has been flying over Bonn since July 1996. Together with the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia, the City of Bonn signed an agreement on the conversion of the former parliamentary district in Bonn into a UN-Campus in February 2002. Its nucleus is the former Plenary Hall which has been transformed into an International Congress Center. The adjacent large buildings as well as the former office tower of the German Deputies now host almost all of the UN organizations at one location. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan inaugurated the main building in the presence of Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel on July 11, 2006. Nearby a second larger conference hall is being built in compliance with the requirements of large UN and world conferences. An experienced voluntary UN staff advisor, a former high official of the German Ministry of Justice, works at the UN headquarters in order to facilitate integration and formalities. The Federal Government has furthermore assigned a special ambassador for the affairs of the United Nations in Bonn.

Meanwhile eighteen UN organizations – with a staff of approximately 950 employees - have relocated to Bonn. Almost all of them have their headquarters on the city's UN Campus:

- The United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV)
- The United Nations Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)
- The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP / CMS)
- The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (UNEP / AEWA)
- The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (UNEP / ASCOBANS)
- The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (UNEP / EUROBATS)
- The United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe – Liaison Office in Germany (UNRIC)
- The UNESCO – UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO – UNEVOC)
- The World Health Organization – Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO – ECEH)
- The United Nations University – Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU – ViE)

- The United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU – EHS)
- The United Nations University – International Human Dimension Programme on Global Environmental Change (UNU – IHDP)
- The Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP), Operating Unit SCYCLE
- The UN Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW – DPC)
- The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN / ISDR) – Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning
- The Consulting Unit of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on Biodiversity and Tourism for Tsunami Affected Countries
- The United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UNOOSA / UN-SPIDER)

Apart from having become Germany's UN City, Bonn is home to an increasing number of NGOs. Around 150 NGOs are working from here in the fields of development cooperation, peacekeeping, renewable energies and sustainable resources management. The list includes recently relocated organizations, such as the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) World Secretariat and Bonn Center, or the Micro Insurance Academy MIA, and organizations that have been working from here for a longer period of time, such as Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Care, Help, Germanwatch, the International Paralympic Committee, and many others.

Bonn also offers excellent working conditions to scientific organizations and to those institutions that act as mediators in the field.

Various global players, such as Deutsche Telekom or Deutsche Post DHL, are headquartered in Bonn. Together with approximately 800 IT companies, they make for the city's innovative potential.

Deutsche Welle (DW), one of the world's leading international radio and television broadcasters, also has its headquarters in our city. The Federal Press Conference maintains an office in Bonn for correspondents working here.

The United Nations as well as the other international actors working from here have made of Bonn a hub of international dialogue, meetings and large conferences and are increasingly finding synergies to advance futures-oriented issues at stake.

## 1.6 Bonn, a Region of Science and Research

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität was founded in 1818; approximately 28,000 students are presently enrolled. Bonn's reputation as a city of science is due primarily to its university, which has produced two Nobel Prize winners (Wolfgang Paul, physics 1989; Reinhard Selten, economics 1994) and belongs to the largest in North Rhine-Westphalia. Roughly one in ten students holds a foreign passport. Innovative cooperation exists between the University of Bonn and universities and institutions of higher education in Cologne and Aachen. This potential formed the basis for the decision to establish the Bonn area as a region of a unique scientific performance. The lion's share of the compensatory funds paid out in the course of the move of the capital from Bonn to Berlin was therefore dedicated to scientific projects.

As much as Euro 0.8513 billion from the compensation fund (total Euro 1.43 billion) were allotted to science, research, technology and education in several projects including, among others, the Center for Advanced European Studies and Research (CAESAR). Furthermore, the Wissenschaftszentrum Bonn (Bonn Science and Research Centre) was enlarged and the Fachhochschule Rhein-Sieg as well as the Fachhochschule Kreis Ahrweiler (Universities of Applied Sciences) were established.

Two additional future-oriented institutes have been affiliated to the University: the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI), to accompany the progress towards European unification, and the Center for Development Research (ZEF), dedicated to education and advisory activities for development policy and practice. These institutes also offer postgraduate study courses. Today, the university also houses a new Center of Mathematics with the Institutes of Mathematics and the Cluster of Excellence.

Furthermore, two new Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen) - one in each of the neighboring Rhein-Sieg and Ahrweiler districts - round off the region's excellent selection of over 90 academies. All of these institutes – and consequently, our city – together have established an excellent reputation in the world of science and learning – in a region that has become the heartland of science and research.

The technology and research sector in the region does also include the German Aerospace Center (DLR) as well as a number of scientific and research institutes that have recently been attracted to the banks of the Rhine, such as Life & Brain, a center of excellence in the field of biomedicine.

Paying tribute to the city's growing importance within the scientific community, Bonn is also home to a great number of federal institutions, most notably the Wissenschaftszentrum (Science Centre), run by the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Donor's Association for the Promotion of Science and Humanities in Germany). The German Academic Exchange Service DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) has its domicile in Bonn as well as the scientific foundation AvH (Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung). Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG (German Research Foundation) is located here as well.

The Deutsches Museum Bonn (German Museum in Bonn) was opened in November 1995, featuring presentations of technological developments since 1945.

## **1.7 Bonn Is Culture**

Nearly everyone thinks of music when mention is made of culture in Bonn. The heritage of Ludwig van Beethoven, born here in 1770, places its obligations on the city. The Bonn Beethoven Orchestra is perhaps the city's most important cultural ambassador, successfully promoting Bonn abroad. The orchestra is one of the best in Germany and renders a significant contribution to the annual Beethoven Festivals, which have taken place since 1927. The international Beethoven Festival does not only attract world-famous orchestras and musicians every year in September, but also visitors from all over the world.

Bonn's tradition in theatre goes back to the times of the electors. In 1826 the art-loving citizens built their own theatre. A new theatre was opened on the banks of the Rhine in 1965. It seats an audience of 1,037. Opera and theatre share the Werkstattbühne (theatre workshop) which seats 175.

The municipal Bonn Theater has premises in Bad Godesberg seating 473, and additional theatres, including the Halle Beuel.

### **Opera, theatre and concerts in Bonn:**

#### **Oper Bonn**

Am Boeselagerhof 1

Ticket Hotline / Box Office (Theaterkasse): phone (0228) 77 80 00, 77 80 08, 77 80 22

Evening Sale (Abendkasse): (0228) 77 36 68

(Opening hours: 1 h before the beginning of the performance)

#### **Werkstattbühne**

Am Boeselagerhof 1

Ticket Hotline / Box Office (Theaterkasse): see above

Evening Sale (Abendkasse): (0228) 77 82 19

(Opening hours: 1 h before the beginning of the performance)

#### **Kammerspiele Bad Godesberg**

Am Michaelshof 9

Ticket Hotline / Box Office (Theaterkasse): (0228) 77 80 01, 77 80 22 or 77 80 33

Evening Sale (Abendkasse): (0228) 77 80 22, 77 80 33

(Opening hours: 1 h before the beginning of the performance)

#### **Halle Beuel - Alter Malersaal**

Siegburger Str. 42,

Ticket Hotline / Box Office (Theaterkasse): (0228) 77 80 08 or 77 80 22 or 77 80 33

Evening Sale (Abendkasse): (0228) 77 84 07

(Opening hours: 1 h before the beginning of the performance)

**Beethovenhalle** (concert and congress hall)

Wachsbleiche 16, phone: (0228) 7222 0

Ticket Hotline / Box Office (Theaterkasse): (0228) 77 80 22 or 77 80 33 or 77 80 08

Evening Sale (Abendkasse): (0228) 72 22 337

(Opening hours: 1 h before the beginning of the performance)

[www.beethovenhalle.de](http://www.beethovenhalle.de)

For more information on upcoming events, opening hours and locations, visit

[www.theater-bonn.de](http://www.theater-bonn.de)

[www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

or contact: [theater@bonn.de](mailto:theater@bonn.de)

The commercial theatre in Bonn has a good reputation as well: Contra-Kreis Theater next to the University (seating 216), Kleines Theater in the Bad Godesberg Park (seating 161), Euro Theater Central (seating 50) in the Bonn pedestrian precinct, and a special Theater der Jugend (youth theatre) in Beuel (seating 189) offer a variety of plays and events. The Beuel Brotfabrik (a converted bread factory), the Brückenforum near Kennedy Bridge and Theater im Keller (tik) in Duisdorf round off the range of theatres to visit. Pantheon on Bundeskanzlerplatz is a nation-wide renowned specialised satirical cabaret and comedy theatre. The improvisation theatre Haus der Springmaus and Theater im Ballsaal are located at Endenich.

**Brotfabrik, Kulturzentrum in Beuel**

Kreuzstr. 16, phone: (0228) 42 13 10

[www.brotfabrik-bonn.de](http://www.brotfabrik-bonn.de)

**Contra-Kreis Theater**

Am Hof 3-5, phone: (0228) 63 23 07

[www.contra-kreis-theater.de](http://www.contra-kreis-theater.de)

**Euro Theater Central Bonn** (offers English performances from time to time)

Mauspfad, phone: (0228) 65 29 51

[www.eurotheater.de](http://www.eurotheater.de)

**Haus der Springmaus,**

Frongasse 8-10, phone: (0228) 79 80 81 (Tickets)

[www.springmaus-theater.de](http://www.springmaus-theater.de)

**Theater im Ballsaal**

Frongasse 9, phone: (0228) 79 79 01

[www.theater-im-ballsaal.de](http://www.theater-im-ballsaal.de)

**Junges Theater Bonn e.V.**

Hermannstr. 50, phone: (0228) 46 36 72

[www.jt-bonn.de](http://www.jt-bonn.de)

**Kleines Theater Bad Godesberg**

Koblenzer Str. 78, phone: (0228) 36 28 39

[www.kleinstheater-badgodesberg.de](http://www.kleinstheater-badgodesberg.de)

**Pantheon, Bonn city centre**

Bundeskanzlerplatz 2-10, phone: (0228) 21 25 21

[www.pantheon.de](http://www.pantheon.de)

### **Piccolo Puppenspiele**

Phone: 02204 98 73 40 (evenings)

[www.piccolo-puppenspiele.de](http://www.piccolo-puppenspiele.de)

### **Theater Die Raben**

Auguststr. 10 (Tapetenfabrik), phone: (0228) 65 65 96

[www.theater-die-raben.de](http://www.theater-die-raben.de)

### **Theater im Anno Tubac**

Kölnstr. 47, phone: (0228) 65 40 74

[www.anno-tubac.de](http://www.anno-tubac.de)

### **tik - Theater im Keller** (a renowned amateur theatre)

Rochusstr. 30, phone: (0228) 61 65 11

[www.tik-bonn.de](http://www.tik-bonn.de)

A calendar of events and tickets for many concerts and plays are also available under [www.bonnticket.de](http://www.bonnticket.de) or under (0228) 50 20 10.

### **The Bonn Players**

This international group, formerly known as the British Embassy Players whose purpose is to present high-quality English-language theatre, has been based in Bonn for over 20 years.

The group has an active membership of around 100 people, representing about 10 to 15 different nationalities. Although the Bonn Players is an amateur group, it has established a reputation for producing English-language theatre of a very high standard, both in Bonn and at international festivals, where it has received a number of top awards in recent years.

Contact:

The Bonn Players e.V.

Denglerstr. 68

53173 Bonn

Tel.: 0228- 9562398

[www.bonnplayers.de](http://www.bonnplayers.de)

## **1.8 Museum Mile, Kunstcarré and More**

More than 20 museums are to be discovered in Bonn. Some of them are unique Germany-wide and have drawn several millions of visitors to date.

The so-called **Museum Mile** features art and culture from around the world. The **Museum of Contemporary History of the Federal Republic of Germany (Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)**, the **Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany (Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)** and the **Bonn Art Museum (Kunstmuseum Bonn)** have made names for themselves in the German and European museum world since their opening in 1992 and 1994 respectively. **Museum Alexander Koenig** (a zoological museum and research center) and **Deutsches Museum Bonn** (modern technology) complete the Museum Mile.

The **Museum of Contemporary History of the Federal Republic of Germany** displays modern German history in an attractive and meaningful way, covering mainly the country's history since the end of World War II. The permanent exhibition of original objects, documents, photos and media stretches over 4,000 square meters. Former Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder inaugurated the new presentation of the permanent exhibition in June 2001. With 7.5 Million visitors in all areas since its opening in 1994 the Museum of Contemporary History of the Federal Republic of Germany is one of the most frequented in Germany.

The exhibits of the **Bonn Art Museum** are housed in a spectacular building designed by the Berlin architect Axel Schultes. Two of the Bonn Art Museum's major collections are "August Macke and the Rhenish Expressionists" and works of internationally recognized representatives of German art since 1945.

The **Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany**, designed by Gustav Peichl, is a museum of touring exhibitions in the heart of Europe that aims to show trends in German, European and international cultural developments and relations.

The **Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig**, one of the major zoological museums in Germany, offers a superb view of the variety of life. It aims at studying and explaining biodiversity on earth. The museum's concept is increasingly oriented towards ecological aspects.

In the city centre near the University, the **Arithmeum**, part of the research institute for discrete mathematics, offers a comprehensive experience of science, technology and aesthetics by displaying the world's largest collection of mechanical calculating machines, the fascination of the latest highly integrated logic chips, and historical calculating books dating back to the times of Johannes Gutenberg. To convey a comprehensive experience, the museum organizes encounters of art and science and even concerts.

The museum landscape continues in the northern part of Bonn, where seven exhibiting institutions have formed the **Kunstcarré (Art Square)**. The museums present a great variety of exhibitions: from the witnesses of Rhenish history and culture and art from the old stone age to the present day at the **Rheinisches Landesmuseum (Rhenish Regional Museum)** and modern art displayed at the **Bonner Kunstverein (Bonn's Art Association)**. A most original museum of the Kunstcarré is, without doubt, the **FrauenMuseum (Women's Museum)**, which was the first of its kind in Europe. Culture and art designed by and for women are presented in the setting of a former department store.

The homes of famous Bonn citizens have also been converted into museums and have opened their doors to visitors: the **August-Macke-Haus**, the **Schumannhaus**, the home of the Bonn intellectual and poet **Ernst Moritz Arndt**, and of course, the birthplace of Bonn's most famous son, **Ludwig van Beethoven**.

**Deutsches Museum Bonn (German Museum Bonn)** presents milestones of research from the past 50 years on 1,500 square meters of exhibition space at the Wissenschaftszentrum. Almost all of the 100 original exhibits are new acquisitions –

from the Transrapid magnetic propulsion high-speed train to the Nobel Prize winning ion trap and the continental deep-boring drill programme.

The **Stadtmuseum Bonn (Bonn City Museum)** displays its interesting collection on the 2,000-year history of Bonn. Choose your favorite museum and pay a visit to one of the following:

### **Museum Mile:**

#### **Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland**

Willy-Brandt-Allee 14

Phone: (0228) 91 65-0

Underground station: Heussallee/Museumsmeile

Tram lines: 16, 63, 66

Opening hours: Tue to Fri 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily; Sat, Sun & holidays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; closed on Mondays

Admission free

[www.hdg.de](http://www.hdg.de)

#### **Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland**

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4

Phone: (0228) 91 71-0

Underground station: Heussallee/Museumsmeile

Tram lines: 16, 63, 66

Opening hours: Tue & Wed 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Thu – Sun 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; closed on Mondays

For registered groups: Fri 9:00 a.m.

[www.bundeskunsthalle.de](http://www.bundeskunsthalle.de)

#### **Kunstmuseum Bonn**

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 2

Phone: (0228) 77-62 60

Underground station: Heussallee/Museumsmeile

Tram lines: 16, 63, 66

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wed 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; closed on Mondays

[www.kunstmuseum-bonn.de](http://www.kunstmuseum-bonn.de)

#### **Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig**

Adenauerallee 160

Phone: (0228) 91 220

Underground station: Museum Koenig

Tram lines: 16, 63, 66

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wed 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.(last entry one hour before Museum closes); closed on Mondays (except for holidays)

Sat and Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[www.museum-koenig.de](http://www.museum-koenig.de)

or [www.zfmk.de](http://www.zfmk.de)

### **Deutsches Museum Bonn**

c/o Wissenschaftszentrum Ahrstraße 45

Phone: (0228) 30 22 55

Underground station: Hochkreuz/Deutsches Museum

Tram lines: 16, 63

Opening hours: Tue – Sun, holidays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Guided tours Sat 3 p.m. and Sun 11:00 a.m. and 3 p.m.

[www.deutsches-museum-bonn.de](http://www.deutsches-museum-bonn.de)

### **Museums in the City Centre:**

#### **Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn**

Colmantstraße 14 - 16

Phone: (0228) 2070-0

Underground station: Hauptbahnhof (Central Railway Station)

Tram lines: 16, 18, 61, 62, 63, 66, 67, 68

Opening hours: Tue – Fri, Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sat 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.; closed on Mondays

[www.rlmb.lvr.de](http://www.rlmb.lvr.de)

#### **Beethoven-Haus**

Bonngasse 18 - 26

Phone: (0228) 98 17 50

Underground station: Bertha-von-Suttner-Platz

Tram lines 62, 65, 66, 67

Opening hours:

(Summer) Mon - Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun, holidays 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

(Winter) Mon - Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun, holidays 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free guided tours daily 2:30 p.m. (not on Sun, not on the first Sat of the month)

[www.beethoven-haus-bonn.de](http://www.beethoven-haus-bonn.de)

#### **August-Macke-Haus**

Bornheimer Straße 96

Phone: (0228) 65 55 31

Underground station: Bonn-West

Tram lines: 16, 18, 63, 68

Opening hours: Tue - Fri 2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat+Sun+holidays 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sun free guided tour at 11.30 a.m.; closed on Mondays

[www.august-macke-haus.de](http://www.august-macke-haus.de)

#### **Schumannhaus**

Sebastianstraße 182

Phone: (0228) 77 36 56

Bus stop: Alfred-Bucherer-Straße / Röckumstraße

Opening hours: Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri 11 a.m.-1.30 p.m.; 3 – 6 p.m.

Admission free

[www.schumannhaus-bonn.de](http://www.schumannhaus-bonn.de)

### **Bonner Kunstverein**

Hochstadenring 22 (August-Macke-Platz)

Phone: (0228) 69 39 36

Bus stop: Frankenbad/Kunsthalle

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thu 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

[www.bonnerkunstverein.de](http://www.bonnerkunstverein.de)

### **FrauenMuseum**

Im Krausfeld 10

Phone: (0228) 69 13 44

Bus stop: Kaiser-Karl-Ring

Tram line: 61

Tram station: Rosental

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

[www.frauenmuseum.de](http://www.frauenmuseum.de)

### **Akademisches Kunstmuseum**

Am Hofgarten 21

Phone: (0228) 73 50 11

Underground station: Universität/Markt

Tram lines 16, 63, 66, 67, 68

Opening hours: Tue - Fri, 3.p.m. to 5 p.m., Sun 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed on holidays and in Sept.

[www.antikensammlung.uni-bonn.de](http://www.antikensammlung.uni-bonn.de)

### **Stadtmuseum Bonn**

Franziskanerstr. 9

Phone: (0228) 77 28 77

Underground station: Universität/Markt

Tram lines 16, 63, 66, 67, 68

Opening hours: Wed 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Thu – Sat 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Sun 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; closed on Mondays and Tuesdays

Free guided tours on Sundays

[www.bonn.de/stadtmuseum](http://www.bonn.de/stadtmuseum)

### **Arithmeum**

Lennéstraße 2

Phone: (0228) 73 87 90

Tram lines 16, 63, 66, 67, 68

Underground station: Universität/Markt

Opening hours: Tue – Sun 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[www.arithmeum.de](http://www.arithmeum.de)

Nature lovers may also want to pay a visit to the **Botanical Gardens of the University of Bonn**. Formerly a Renaissance and later the Baroque park around Poppelsdorfer Schloss, castle of the Electors of Cologne, the Botanical Gardens are a “living museum” of precious plants from all over the world. More than 8,000 different plants are cultivated here, amongst them some endangered species of local biotopes, some of them unique in European collections.

### **Botanical Gardens of the University of Bonn**

Meckenheimer Allee 171

Phone (0228) 73 55 23

Bus stop: Botanischer Garten

Opening hours: (Gardens) Sun – Fri 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; (Greenhouses) Mon – Fri 10 a.m. – 12 noon & 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., Sun, holidays 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Please check for different opening hours in winter time.

[www.botgart.uni-bonn.de](http://www.botgart.uni-bonn.de)

## **1.9 Beethoven in Bonn**

There are four famous places to visit:

Beethoven-Haus, Beethovenhalle, the Beethoven Monument and the "Beethon" concrete sculpture.

The **Beethoven-Haus**, a landmark of Bonn, is supported by the Beethoven House Society (founded in 1889) and comprises a museum, the Beethoven Archives, a Chamber Music Hall and the Digital Beethoven-Haus. The museum displays a representative selection from the Society's collections, the largest Beethoven collection in the world. Portraits, original manuscripts, scores, instruments and everyday objects convey a lively and authentic glimpse into the life and work of the composer. The Digital Beethoven-Haus was opened in 2005 to complement the museum's exhibitions with a variety of multi-media opportunities and to allow access to the collection through the internet. Visitors can go on an interactive tour through Beethoven's life and work and enjoy his music in an artistic 3-D setting enriched with audiovisual elements. The Beethoven Archives as a research institute and library are the central repository of documents relating to Beethoven's life, work and intellectual circle. The Chamber Music Hall, officially opened in 1989, not only has outstanding acoustics, but is also considered to be one of the most beautiful modern-day concert halls. Alongside the special emphasis on the music of Beethoven and his contemporaries, music of our own time is also performed here. Have a look on the website and virtual walk through the home of the famous composer: [www.beethoven-haus-bonn.de](http://www.beethoven-haus-bonn.de) (see also list of museums for more details).

The **Beethovenhalle**, officially opened on 8 September 1959, has served as a concert and congress hall for many years. It is home to the Beethoven Orchestra, and internationally acclaimed guest artists and orchestras also perform here. Major events include the annual Beethoven Festival and large congresses. The largest of the four auditoriums accommodates 2,000 people. The present Beethovenhalle is the third hall to bear this name in Bonn. The first, a wooden building, was constructed on the initiative of Franz Liszt for the first Beethoven Festival in 1845, but had to be torn down as it was claimed to be a fire hazard. The second hall, constructed in 1870 for the second Beethoven Festival marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birth,

was also a wooden structure. It was completely destroyed by fire during the extensive air raid on the city on 18 October 1944.

The **Beethoven Monument** on Münsterplatz was unveiled in August 1845 in honour of Beethoven's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday at the first Beethoven Festival. Ernst Hähnel won the 1840 competition for the bronze standing figure. The statue's stance and symbolism characterize the "inspired musician", who, with upward-turned gaze, receives creative inspiration to record in his notebook with his stylus. Ludwig van Beethoven's mother, Maria Magdalena van Beethoven (née Keverich) originally came from Ehrenbreitstein in the Rhineland. She was laid to rest at the Old Cemetery in 1787. A modest stone marker on the grave, only rediscovered in 1932, recalls her memory and that of her great son, whose words are inscribed: "She was such a good, loveable mother to me, my best friend."

The concrete sculpture "**Beethon**" has become a modern emblem of the Beethoven City. Düsseldorf artist Professor Klaus Kammerichs took five months to create the concrete sculpture cast in styrofoam moulds. It has stood in front of the Beethovenhalle since 1986.

Moreover, the city's most famous son is recognized with a special festival every autumn. Bonn's famous **Beethoven Festival** attracts musicians and music lovers from all over the world.

## 1.10 Business Location Bonn

Situated in scenic surroundings, Bonn is today a modern centre of service industries boasting a prospering economy and a range of top-standard scientific institutions. Apart from being the second political and administrative centre in Germany as well as a significant centre of international politics and, with the settlement of 18 UN organizations to date, Germany's UN city, Bonn is an international city due to the presence of approximately 150 internationally active NGOs, of Deutsche Welle (DW), one of the world's leading international radio and television broadcasters, and owing to the presence of two global players, Deutsche Telekom and Deutsche Post DHL and their subsidiaries. The university maintains close international contacts and the city has become a hub for the debate on future-oriented issues, hosting several large conferences annually.

Situated in the middle of Europe, Bonn links two regions of high economic performance in Germany: the Rhine-Ruhr area and the Rhine-Main area. Cologne/Bonn Airport provides connections to all important cities in Europe. Apart from offering direct flights to New York and Rio de Janeiro, Cologne/Bonn is the largest low-cost flight airport in Europe. The region offers good international travel connections and a sound local infrastructure.

Analysts forecast for the Bonn region a sustained positive population growth, which will secure both, a qualified work force and a good local demand structure. Bonn's population as of July 2010 was 317,595. Since the transfer to Berlin of Parliament and parts of the Government, Bonn has experienced a steady population growth. Purchasing power is well above the national average, while the unemployment rate is considerably below average.

Bonn's total work force has grown as well in comparison to mid-1991, the year of Parliament's decision to move to Berlin. The qualification level of the work force is above average. The number of new businesses has been growing steadily in Bonn over the past few years, a development which is supported by a business-friendly environment.

There are more than 16,000 businesses in Bonn. After Munich and Dusseldorf, Bonn-based companies have the third-highest stock exchange value which is mainly due to the two heavy-weights Deutsche Telekom and Deutsche Post. Over 86 percent of the jobholders subject to social insurance contribution are employed in the services sector or in the public administration. Primary growth areas have for years been all types of business-related services. Of particular importance are the information and telecommunications sector, the health industry, tourism and the congress business.

Bonn ranks among the ten key tourist and congress destinations in Germany. Situated at the heart of Europe, the region of Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Ahrweiler features perfect travel connections and receives over 15 million visitors per year, with hotel bookings amounting to 2.5 million overnight stays. A total of about 8,000 beds are available within the area and the city has counted about 1.2 million overnight stays a year.

Bonn hosts many conferences of worldwide significance. The city's UN-Campus accommodates the Bonn-based United Nations secretariats. The World Conference Center Bonn is in its direct neighbourhood. An extension is under construction so that the new WCCB congress centre will offer facilities for up to 5,000 conference participants.

Moreover, there is a considerable number of suitable venues for congresses and conferences of different magnitude available in Bonn and its surroundings.

Art and culture in the Beethoven City with its outstanding exhibitions in the museums along the "Museum Mile", the romantic Rhine valley, the vineyards of the Siebengebirge hills and of the Ahr River valley, all these are modules for arranging exclusive supporting programmes.

Since 1997, the "Tourismus und Congress (T&C) GmbH Region Bonn / Rhein-Sieg / Ahrweiler" has been responsible for tourism marketing in the region. This organization arranges all-inclusive congress service programmes upon request. T&C's own hotel reservation service will book rooms online, or organize custom-made package deals for holidaymakers interested in culture, fitness, beauty or wellness. To learn more, please visit [www.bonn-region.de](http://www.bonn-region.de)

## 1.11 City Twinning and Project Partnerships

Maintaining contacts with local authorities as well as twinning and partnerships with cities in foreign countries is considered essential and has become a commonly recognized task of cities and municipalities in the Federal Republic of Germany. Therefore Bonn is proud of having established town twinning and project partnerships between the city itself and between the different urban districts and towns in several countries around the globe:

### - Urban district of Central Bonn:

Oxford/England  
District XXII of the City of Budapest/Hungary,  
Contacts with Opole/Poland

### - District of Bad Godesberg:

St. Cloud/France  
Frascati/Italy  
Windsor-Maidenhead/England  
Kortrijk/Belgium  
Friendship agreement with Yalova/Turkey

### - District of Beuel:

Mirecourt/France

### - District of Hardtberg:

Villemomble/France

Apart from this, the **City of Bonn** has maintained a special friendship with **Tel Aviv / Israel** for many years.

Before the fall of the wall the **City of Bonn** had also established a partnership with **Potsdam**, located in the former eastern part of Germany, and has maintained this inner-German partnership ever since.

While the focus of these twinings is on promoting international understanding, the activities are mainly related to meetings of clubs and associations and group-specific exchanges.

In the course of the endeavours to develop Bonn into a centre of international co-operation, an international profile has been drawn up outlining the city's future, containing apart from the traditional town twinning so-called project partnerships. These project-related partnerships will continue to focus on the traditional emphases 'culture and youth' and municipal know-how transfer. But they also encompass new or pressing issues, such as combating desertification and its consequences, mitigating or adapting to climate change, facing growing urbanization and migration, or ensuring early warning against natural disasters. Furthermore, co-operation among municipalities is being intensified in various city networks. Another important

target is to increasingly encourage the commitment and the involvement of non-governmental organizations and of grassroots groups. Bonn has become a pivot city of international co-operation and attaches great importance to initiating new forms of cooperation, integrating new actors, finding synergies and exchanging knowledge and best practices in international networks.

### **Presently six project partnerships exist between the City of Bonn and:**

#### **Bukhara**

Inhabitants: approx. 250,000

Historic caravan centre at the crossroads of the Silk Road, merging the culture and architecture of two continents.

Topics that unite: Combating desertification, saving energy and using renewable energies.

#### **Cape Coast**

Inhabitants: approx. 143,000

Capital of the Central Region and the Cape Coast Municipal District of Ghana, situated on the Gulf of Guinea.

Topics that unite: Waste management, protecting natural resources.

#### **Chengdu**

Inhabitants: approx. 10 million

Capital of the Sichuan province. Rich in culture and booming business hub with universities, research institutes and major enterprises. Pioneering in environmental protection.

Topics that unite: Environment protection, school twinning.

#### **La Paz**

Inhabitants: approx. 820,000

Andean city located at an elevation of 3,800 meters above sea level, threatened by natural phenomena, such as flooding or landslides. Coexistence of indigenous and other ethnic groups poses social challenges.

Topics that unite: Cultural and youth affairs, early warning and sustainable development.

#### **Minsk**

Inhabitants: approx. 1.7 million

Capital of the Republic of Belarus. Successful implementation of projects served as role model for further project partnerships.

Topics that unite: Cultural and youth affairs, exchange of senior experts and specialists.

#### **Ulan Bator**

Inhabitants: approx. 1 million

Capital in between tradition and modernity. Faced with considerable social challenges: One fourth of Mongolia's total population lives in the city at this time, with an upward trend due to rural exodus.

Topics that unite: Youth exchange, sustainable city development and public participation.

## 1.12 Bonn Is International

Bonn's citizens are traditionally multicultural, educated and cosmopolitan. One in seven Bonn residents has a foreign passport. People from over 170 nations live in Bonn and there are five foreign schools and eight other schools offering bilingual education courses.

Having been Germany's capital for approximately half a century, the city and its citizens have been able to acquire international expertise in many fields. In the years from 1949 to 1999, over 10,000 people came to Bonn as embassy personnel of their respective countries. Their presence fostered a climate of openness towards foreign cultures and influenced the goods on offer in shops, bookstores and even on the market square in Bonn.

At the time of the government's move from Bonn to Berlin it had been a part of everyday life in Bonn for nearly five decades to live with people from around the world. This openness proved to be a benefit to the city as the Federal Government decided to use these skills also in the future. The Berlin-Bonn Law stipulates that "Bonn (..is to become..) a place for development policy, national, international and supranational organizations" (§ 6). The declared goal of the Federal government is to centrally locate national institutions oriented towards developing countries in Bonn.

The Federal City has thus gained important ground and has established a global network of relations and contacts in the fields of science, environment, development, and economics.

Having become Germany's United Nations City and host city for around 150 NGOs, the city is also home to an international community that continues to grow.

A Foreigners' Advisory Board, which the city council set up back in 1985, became mandatory in 1994.

The international schools in the city and region are especially important for the development of the city's cosmopolitan atmosphere. Here children from around the world can complete courses of schooling and gain qualifications that are recognized in their countries of origin, such as the International Baccalaureate, the French baccalauréat, and Arabic school-leaving certificates.

As a host city, Bonn does not only offer a broad spectrum of leisure and recreational activities, but has also established a platform for newcomers, so that they may become acquainted with what is on offer in Bonn and feel a little more at home away from home. Regular BonnExpat evenings and informal get-togethers will help new arrivals to receive information first-hand and to become socially integrated more easily. For more details and upcoming events, visit [www.bonnexpat.com](http://www.bonnexpat.com). Here you will also find information on Bonn and the region, ranging from finding the right place to eat to meeting like-minded people or getting around in Bonn. The page also lists useful links for all who have recently settled in Germany.

More information on Bonn and the region can be found under [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de). A new English website will be available soon. It will be linked to the international pages under [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de), offering a whole range of practical information for newcomers in Bonn.

Under [www.bonn-region.de](http://www.bonn-region.de) you will find offers for city tours and other activities and events, and information on culture, art and shopping in Bonn.

### 1.13 Bonn(e) Cuisine

"Over here eating is an important state affair."  
(Prosper Mérimée, Bonn, July 1830)

Alexandre Dumas, the French author wrote the following description of eating habits in Bonn as he experienced them during a visit to the city in 1838: "We had only just arrived when everyone went to the table for a meal that is normally served at around one p.m. In Germany they eat from sunup to sundown. Starting at seven, as soon as you wake up you have your coffee. At eleven you take a second breakfast, at one o'clock you get together for lunch and at three o'clock you have a real supper. At five there is a small vespers and at nine you have your dinner and fall asleep while doing so. This list does not even include all the tea, cake and sandwiches you can eat in between."

Even back then, Bonn's lifestyle was well known. The cosmopolitan citizens of this region were not only living at the heart of Europe, but they were always willing to adopt pleasant foreign customs and habits.

Part of the *savoir vivre* in this region is eating and drinking. The Rhineland's cuisine has always been open to foreign influences but has also retained its distinct native, rural tradition that can only be explained by the region's special character and history. It may seem odd today - but a hundred years ago the Rhine was a perfect fishing ground for eels, brace, and salmon. Prussian officials forbade rich people to feed their domestics such poor and vulgar meals as Rhine salmon more than twice a week. Whatever the river and the surrounding countryside offered was turned into exquisite dishes. Even today the imagination of Bonn chefs knows no limits when it comes to offering regional cuisine. Connoisseurs fall into raptures when they are offered Rhineland bean soup with buttermilk and cream. "Sauerbraten", a marinated roast with dumplings and applesauce, is often seen on foreign menus as typical of Rhineland cuisine.

Bonn's cuisine is seasonal. It can accompany you all year round, starting in spring with a light nettle soup. In autumn a dish called "Kesselknall", a casserole of grated potatoes and vegetables is to be seen on menus. Or you may want to try "Himmel und Erde" - "Heaven and Earth": Heaven stands for mashed apples that are added to the mashed earthly potatoes and are served with blood sausage - a typical dish for cold weather. A list of local specialties would also include bread soup, beer soup with plums, "Panhas" - a casserole made from buckwheat and sausage, and even stranger recipes.

At around the time of St. Martin in November, children are offered sweet rolls and little baked men made from sweet yeasty dough with a clay pipe in their mouths. In December, St. Nicholas brings chocolate and other goodies. At or around New Year's Day the sweet New Year's wreath is a tradition that dates back to Celtic times.

Both regional specialties as well as a great variety of foreign dishes can be found at local restaurants in Bonn. When you go to a restaurant offering Rhineland cuisine, do not hesitate to indulge in these culinary delights. To accompany the meal drink a Riesling from the Rhine, a Spätburgunder from the Ahr valley or a cool Kölsch or Bönnsch beer. If you prefer nonalcoholic drinks, there is an immense variety of

natural carbonated spring waters, the most famous ones from the soil surrounding Bonn.

Of course, not only Rhineland cuisine is offered in Bonn's restaurants. It is quite common to be served also other regional delights, like "Federweisser and Zwiebelkuchen" (must from fermented grape juice and a quiche-like onion cake) in autumn. As people from all German regions moved to Bonn during its period as the German capital, a large choice of regional and international restaurants as well as specialized shops from most parts of the world welcome the broad variety of customers throughout the city. In 2005, Bonn was chosen the German gourmet capital by the Gault Millaut Guides!

Finally, it should be mentioned that mussels were turned into another Rhineland specialty in Bonn thanks to a brutal ruler. His highness threatened the sailors on the Rhine with beatings and other punishments if they did not deliver perishable goods quickly to his court in Bonn. This explains why mussels were only available in the cold season (during months that contain an "r" in their name) and only as far south as Bonn. Today, with the convenience of refrigerators, mussels can be eaten all year round and beatings are quite unusual in restaurants. On the contrary, everyone is happy to share the local culinary delights when guests and new residents from all over the world are in town. You are welcome to join us!

## Part 2

### 2.1 All about Residence

#### 2.1.1 Housing and Rents

The level of rents and property prices in Bonn and the surrounding area is roughly average for Germany as a whole although, by international comparison, the prices are very moderate, as an international rent comparison conducted by the United Nations found.

<b>Rents and Property Prices – some examples -</b>	
<b>Average Monthly Rent</b>	
Office space in and around the federal district	11 to 15 EUR/sq.m.
Excellent residential location; approx. 95 sq.m. up to 3 years old	7.25 - 8.50 EUR/sq.m
Superior standard	Add 0,50 EUR/sq.m
<b>Real Estate Purchase – Average Prices</b>	
Owner-occupied apartment, excellent location, 85 sq.m. - up to 3 years old	1.905 to 2.385 EUR/sq.m
Owner-occupied apartment 10-15 years old, 80 sq.m., good location	1.440 to 1.610,-EUR/sq.m
Owner-occupied apartment in the federal district or other top locations; depending on age	1.540 to 2.780.- EUR/sq.m
Detached or semi-detached house, good location, approx.120 sq.m.	approximately 250.000 to 300.000 EUR

In Germany, rent agreements are essentially freely negotiable between the contracting parties within the framework of statutory requirements. Generally speaking, there is no minimum or maximum period of tenancy; a rental period of 3 to 5 years with the option to extend is perfectly feasible. Normally, a deposit in the amount of 3 months' rent is required.

If you are planning to find a rental via a real estate agent, you should also expect to pay the customary courtage of two months' rent. The local newspapers, especially the Saturday-Sunday and Wednesday editions are a good source for housing put on the market directly by the owner. Available apartments and houses may also be found online with the local newspapers or Germany-wide under [www.immobilienscout24.de](http://www.immobilienscout24.de)

Please note that kitchens, bathrooms and hallways are not counted in the number of rooms, so a two- bedroom apartment with living room and dining room, for example, is called a four-room apartment.

Those planning to rent housing should also be aware that, in most cases, the apartment will not include furniture of any kind, such as kitchen cabinets or walk-in closets.

Additional expenses (utilities) include the charges for water, waste water, heating and waste collection.

Charges for telecommunication and electricity are normally paid by the tenants themselves. Electric cooking is widespread. Electric current in Germany is 220 volts. Under some rental agreements, the tenant is obliged to share the responsibility for cleaning public areas. Official quiet hours are between 1 and 3 p.m. and after 10 p.m.

### **2.1.2 Standard of Living, Security and Crime Rate**

The cost of living in Bonn is moderate compared to other European cities and lower than in larger German cities like Hamburg or Munich. Prices have remained nearly stable over the past years, with a low inflation rate. Given the high quality of consumer goods of any kind on offer, Bonn's cost of living is certainly acceptable, and it readily facilitates a good standard of living.

Bonn is a safe and friendly place with no xenophobia. Conference guests and staff of international organizations feel safe when they walk through the city's streets at night or use local public transportation.

In a 2007 comparison of international locations, Bonn ranked first among German cities and was among the top five cities worldwide. A survey conducted among 1,800 expatriates in 2009 found that Bonn ranked first again among German cities and among the seven top locations in the world.

More than 11,000 German internet users participated in an internet survey conducted in 2011, where Bonn ranked among the top five locations in Germany.

Bonn's excellent rankings result from the high standard of living for Germans and the international community alike, taking into account such factors as the availability of goods, local infrastructure and cultural offers as well as excellent medical care, for instance, but also from its low crime rate.

## **2.2 Transport and Travel**

### **2.2.1 International Travel Connections and Local Transportation**

Bonn's sophisticated infrastructure – both, local and regional - meets all the needs of globally active, globally travelling organizations. It includes a dense highway network, rail links and flight connections to all key destinations. New York, Nairobi or Delhi can all be reached within 7.5 hours from the neighbouring airports of Düsseldorf (60 minutes by train or car) and Frankfurt (38 minutes by ICE high-speed train). Most European cities are no more than an hour's flight away from the airport at Cologne / Bonn. The highway distance to Brussels is about 2 to 3 hours only.

A total of three international airports are located less than one hour away from Bonn: Cologne/Bonn Airport is just 20 minutes by car or by bus from the city centre. This airport is oriented primarily to intra-European flights. At the same time, it offers a wide range of carefully timed connecting flights to destinations outside of Europe. A number of German airlines offer service from Cologne/Bonn airport to numerous international destinations. Flights include a great choice of low-cost offers to European and various destinations outside Europe.

Frankfurt Airport, Germany's most important airport, offers an extensive range of long-distance flights to all major destinations on all continents and Düsseldorf Airport is a key departure point for charter flights overseas.

Europe's capitals and many other major cities – including most German cities – are interconnected via a high-speed rail network. Brussels is only three hours, Paris only four hours and Berlin only four and a half hours away from Bonn's main railway station.

Bonn's main railway station and the Siegburg/Bonn ICE station are directly connected via public transportation, with trams operating at 10-minute intervals.

The local road and public transportation network is very well developed too. Bonn is in fact a city of short distances. Residential areas are well connected to the city centre. It rarely takes more than 20 minutes to get from "Point A" to "Point B" within the city – and that convenience is valued by Bonn's citizens as a tangible contribution to Bonn's high quality of life and work.

The city of Bonn has an excellent local public transportation system with trams, subways, city trains, busses and several Rhine river ferries. Local public transportation services operate very frequently.

Check the SWB Service Center for tickets and tariffs, for subscriptions and special rates: [www.swb-busundbahn.de/bus-bahn/service/servicecenter.html](http://www.swb-busundbahn.de/bus-bahn/service/servicecenter.html)

Need a taxi? They may be called under 0228-55 55 55 or several other numbers listed in the local Yellow Pages. Fares are metered unless you and the driver agree otherwise.

Cyclists will find a large number of cycle paths along the river Rhine. Maps of bicycle routes in and around Bonn are available at bookshops.

## **2.2.2 Driving in Bonn**

### **Traffic Regulations**

The international traffic signs used in Germany are the same as in most of Europe. As a responsible driver, you must be familiar with these signs and with the German highway code. You can purchase an English language instruction manual from a driving school (*Fahrschule*). Here we will highlight some important rules which can be studied in detail with the help of a manual.

While there is generally no speed limit on the motorway (*Autobahn*), the recommended maximum speed is 130 kph. Some speed limits are posted and these areas may be radar patrolled. Speeding tickets are sent by post a few weeks later. The speed limit in towns

and villages is 50 kph unless otherwise signed, 30 kph in certain zones.

Seat belts are mandatory for all passengers, and children must have appropriate car seats. All vehicles must be equipped with a warning triangle and a first aid kit to be used in emergencies.

Drive on the right, overtake on the left - this includes driving on the motorway. Right of way must be yielded to all vehicles and bicycles coming from the right at all intersections unless otherwise marked. Pedestrians crossing at the black and white zebra crossing have absolute right of way. Cyclists must use cycle paths where

available and follow the rules for cars wherever they use the road. Buses pulling out from bus stops have right of way. No right turn on a red stop light, unless indicated by a little green arrow!

Drinking and driving don't mix: the legal limit for blood alcohol content is 0.5 %, for beginners 0.0 %.

Violations are punishable by fines and/or suspension of driving licence.

You will find basic traffic rules and road signs in English under [www.gettingaroundgermany.info/regeln.htm](http://www.gettingaroundgermany.info/regeln.htm)

Many questions related to various aspects of cars and driving in Germany can be answered by the German Automobile Association (ADAC)

ADAC Bonn  
Godesberger Allee 127  
53175 Bonn  
[www.adac.de](http://www.adac.de)

## Parking

There are several possibilities for parking:

- hourly parking
- multi-storey car parks (*Parkhäuser*)
- resident sticker (*Bewohner-Parkausweis*).

For hourly parking you can find lay-bys simply requiring a parking disk (*Parkscheibe*) or parking spaces where you will find coin-dispensing machines for inserting coins. The machine rolls out a slip of paper with the printed time on it for you to put on the dashboard of your car so that it is clearly visible to the traffic warden.

The map shows the multi-storey car parks in the city. A display indicates whether there are still free spaces (*freie Plätze*). Opening hours and parking rates vary. When paying (yellow ticket machines, often on the ground floor) and leaving the multi-storey car park, please take your parking ticket with you.

In some areas you need a "resident sticker" (*Bewohner-Parkausweis*). It allows you to park your car on one side of the street in your area of residence (for example: Südstadt, Rheinferviertel, Weststadt). You may obtain the resident sticker from the city traffic administration department in the City Hall (*Stadthaus*), Ms. Babic, telephone 0228-77 3304.

## 2.3 Education and Profession

### 2.3.1 The German School System

School education begins at the primary / elementary school (*Grundschule*) for grades 1-4. After grade 4, children may attend one of the following secondary schools, according to their academic ability:

- *Hauptschule* (secondary level, providing basic general education) - grades 5 -10
- *Realschule* (secondary modern school, providing a more extensive general and technical education) - grades 5 -10
- *Gymnasium* (secondary or grammar school access to higher education) - grades 5 - 13

- *Gesamtschule* or *Sekundarschule* (comprehensive schools – access to higher education) - grades 5 -13
- *Fachoberschule* (technical and vocational training colleges – access to Universities of Applied Sciences) – grades 11-13

At the *Gymnasium*, pupils may take the *Abitur* leaving examination, a prerequisite for admission to university. The *Gesamtschule* combines the three traditional secondary school types in one location, whereas the *Sekundarschule* combines *Realschule* and *Gymnasium* only.

As a rule, German state schools used to be half-day schools. They are open to all and do not charge fees<sup>1</sup>.

However, full-day schooling is increasing, including open all-day primary schools. The number of pupils' day home places (fees charged) has decreased accordingly.

### 2.3.2 Schools in Bonn

The schools are very international in character. Classes are composed of a mixture of pupils from about 150 nations. Many schools provide additional language instruction in German in order to facilitate learning for foreign pupils or native language tuition to strengthen the cultural identity of the pupils.

Starting in 2003, English was taught as a regular subject in primary schools from grade 3 upwards; as of 2009, English has been compulsory at all primary schools in NRW from grade 1 upwards.

The staff of international organizations and their families benefit from the educational facilities and international clubs established in Bonn for the international community, which amounted to roughly 10,000 before the transfer of the parliament and parts of the government. As there is still a large international community today, which continues to grow, Bonn boasts a number of institutions where international qualifications may be earned.

In the city there are numerous opportunities for attending an international school, for taking foreign language classes, or receiving additional tuition in one's mother tongue. The choice ranges from international child care facilities, some of which are privately owned, to primary school education, to secondary schools catering for core vocational qualifications or the leaving qualifications required for the access to higher education. Within the city, each of these schools can be reached in 20 minutes on foot or by public transport. This includes a nursery and primary school that have

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<sup>1</sup> **State schools** in Germany are open to all and do not charge fees.

There are two types of private schools in Germany: Alternative schools (*Ersatzschule*) and Additional schools. An **Alternative School** (*Ersatzschule*) is a school whose curriculum is compatible with the educational system in Germany; school leaving certificates are acknowledged; parents may enrol their children without special permission. Alternative schools receive subsidies from the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia; as a rule they do not charge tuition fees.

An **Additional school** (*Ergänzungsschule*) is a school whose curriculum differs in varied ways from the educational system in Germany. Leaving certificates may not be acknowledged for German academic careers. Mainly they are open to children residing only temporarily in Germany and who need either their national or an international type of school education. Parents have to notify the enrolment (in the case of an **acknowledged** additional school) or to apply for a special permission. Additional schools always charge school fees; they live on these fees.

opened their doors primarily for children of UN employees are located in the immediate proximity of the UN Campus. The foundation stone for a new UN kindergarten was laid in May 2012.

Students may take the German *Abitur* or, if they wish, an internationally recognized leaving examination (e.g. the International or the French Baccalaureate). Bilingual courses and internationally recognized examinations are being offered by five *Gymnasien* (academically oriented secondary school type – four state-run schools and one private alternative school (*Ersatzschule*)). They have all adopted an integrative concept, aiming at bringing together German and foreign students in classes with English or French tuition in numerous subjects. The Bonn International School (BIS – an additional school), subsidized by the Federal Republic, the State Government of NRW and the City of Bonn, comprises all school types and prepares students for the IB exam. At *Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium*, for instance, pupils may take the *Abitur*, the French *Baccalauréat* or the International Baccalaureate (IB).

The schools that do not offer bilingual subject tuition or international leaving certificates place a special emphasis on sciences, sports, music, or feature an abundance of other workshops, projects and special programs focusing on energy-saving measures, joint research or international cooperation, for instance.

For further information / educational counselling, please contact the local School Department:

Schulamt – Bildungsberatung  
Sankt Augustiner Str. 86  
53225 Bonn (Beuel)  
Phone: 0228-77-4384 (Ms. Pias, Ms. Bockemühl)  
Email: [bildungsberatung@bonn.de](mailto:bildungsberatung@bonn.de)

A special Advisory Center for Non-German Children is located at the School Department as well. Please contact Ms. Martin, Phone 0228-77-5784.

An index of schools on the internet may be found under <http://www.bonn.de>.

## List of Schools in Bonn

Primary Schools / Elementary Schools			
Type of School	Languages/ Extras	Hours/ day	Location
<b>State Schools (49)</b>			
49 German elementary schools	English is a regular subject from the 2nd half of grade 1 upwards	The <b>half-day school</b> is the traditional form of teaching. Possibility of day care in the afternoon: all elementary schools in Bonn are so-called "open all-day schools", providing a non-compulsory afternoon program, mainly with the help of voluntary teachers, parents, students, senior citizens and sports trainers. Parents are required to pay a modest fee.	in every district of the city
Erich-Kästner-Schule <a href="http://www.eks-bonn.de">www.eks-bonn.de</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasis on English tuition – more English classes than in the regular curriculum.</li> <li>• French classes once a week (optional / fee is charged).</li> <li>• No tuition fees</li> </ul>	Open all-day school; 7.45 am. to 6 pm	near the UN-Campus
Stiftsschule <a href="http://www.stiftsschule-bonn.de">www.stiftsschule-bonn.de</a>	Offers Spanish/German tuition; no tuition fees	Open all-day school	Bonn-Centre
Ennertschule <a href="http://www.ennertschule.de">www.ennertschule.de</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified European School (Europaschule NRW): <a href="http://www.europaschulen.nrw.de">www.europaschulen.nrw.de</a></li> <li>• Since the school year 2007/2008 a French exchange teacher teaches French once a week for grades 1 to 4.</li> <li>• Optional classes in Spanish once a week for grades 1 to 4.</li> <li>• No tuition fees</li> </ul>	one all-day section	Bonn-Beuel (Küdinghoven)
Grundschulverbund Marienschule – Nordschule <a href="http://www.grundschulverbund-bonn.eu">www.grundschulverbund-bonn.eu</a>	Certified European School (Europaschule NRW): <a href="http://www.europaschulen.nrw.de">www.europaschulen.nrw.de</a>	Open all-day school	Bonn-Nord Bonn-Castell
<b>Private Schools (6)</b>			
Rudolf Steiner (Waldorf) School <a href="http://www.fwsbonn.de/">www.fwsbonn.de/</a>	Alternative school; English and French tuition from grade 1 upwards; grades 1 to 13	Open all-day school	Bonn-Tannenbusch
École de Gaulle-Adenauer <a href="http://www.ecole-bonn.de">www.ecole-bonn.de</a>	German/French bilingual; English classes as of grade 2. alternative school plus nursery	all-day school	Bonn-Mehlem (South, residential area)
Independent Bonn International School e.V. (IBIS) <a href="http://www.ibis-school.com">www.ibis-school.com</a>	German/English bilingual; grade 1 to 4 as an alternative school; grade 5 as an additional school	all-day school	Bonn-Heiderhof (South, residential area)
Bonn International School (BIS) <a href="http://www.bis.bonn.org">www.bis.bonn.org</a>	additional school; Primary School, Secondary School, High School, IB Exam	all-day school	Bonn-Plittersdorf (residential area near the UN-Campus)
King Fahd Academy	additional school; Arab Primary and Secondary school for pupils of the Arabic language who are temporarily resident in Germany, grades 1-12	all-day school	Bonn-Pennenfeld (central south)

Libysch-Arabische El-Fateh-Schule	additional school; Arab Primary and Secondary school for pupils of the Arabic language who are temporarily resident in Germany, grades 1-10	8.45 am to 2.15 pm	Bonn-Plittersdorf (near the UN-Campus)
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## Secondary Schools (high schools, grammar schools, vocational colleges)

Type of School	Languages/Extras	Hours/day	Location
<b>State secondary general schools (6)</b>			
<b>Hauptschulen</b>	English from grade 5 upwards	of which 5 all-day schools; the 6 <sup>th</sup> school offers optional afternoon program	in every district of the city
Theodor-Litt-Sekundarschule <a href="http://www.theodor-litt-schule.de">www.theodor-litt-schule.de</a>	Beside English from grade 5 upwards Spanish is offered as a second language in class 5. From grade 6 upwards the pupils can decide if they want to go on with Spanish or take another profile. Bilingual subject tuition Spanish/German is possible from grade 7 upwards.	all-day school, being built up from school year 2008/2009 upwards  Theodor-Litt-Sekundarschule and Gottfried-Kinkel-Realschule will be transformed into a new comprehensive school to replace these two existing schools.	Bonn-Kessenich
<b>Intermediate secondary schools (8 state run schools, 1 alternative school (Ersatzschule))</b>			
<b>Realschulen</b>	Englisch from grade 5 upwards; second foreign language in grade 6, with the possibility to continue from grade 7 upwards	one all-day school; 2 more schools are being transformed into all-day schools at this time, others offer optional afternoon programs.  Theodor-Litt-Sekundarschule and Gottfried-Kinkel-Realschule will be transformed into a new comprehensive school to replace these two existing schools.	in every district of the city, many feature special projects or partnerships (e.g. Schools Partnership to Improve the Conservation of Energy (SPICE) between Emilie-Heyermann-Ralschule Bonn and school in Buchara, Uzbekistan)
<b>State comprehensive schools (5) - Grades 5 to 13 (German Abitur after 13 years)</b>			
<b>Gesamtschulen</b>	3 comprehensive schools are fully operational at this time, other schools are being transformed into two more comprehensive schools at this time several languages, optional Chinese for the upper level at Bonn-Beuel	all-day schools	Bonn-Tannenbusch, Bonn-Castell, Bonn-Kessenich Bonn-Beuel, Bonn-Bad Godesberg
<b>Rudolf Steiner (Waldorf) School (1) - Grades 1 to 13 (German Abitur after 13 years)</b>			
Rudolf Steiner (Waldorf) School <a href="http://www.fwsbonn.de/">www.fwsbonn.de/</a>	alternative school English and French tuition from grade 1 upwards; grades 1 to 13	Open all-day school	Bonn-Tannenbusch

**Grammar schools (10 state run schools, 9 alternative schools (Ersatzschulen)) - Grades 5 to 12 (German Abitur after 12 years)**

<b>Gymnasien</b>	Several offer bilingual subject tuition, some of them qualified international leaving certificates	Several Gymnasien are boarding schools or offer partial boarding, all-day or half-day courses, or afternoon programs	in every district, Gymnasien in various districts, easily accessible; some place a special emphasis on sciences, sports or music; abundance of workshops, partnerships, international projects and programs available (energy-saving measures, joint research, international cooperation, new technologies etc.)
Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium <a href="http://www.feg-bonn.de">www.feg-bonn.de</a>	bilingual curriculum with subject tuition in German/French and bilingual subject tuition German/English; qualifications: German Abitur, French Baccalauréat, International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB); from grade 8 on, Chinese as a workshop CertiLingua-School ( <a href="http://www.certilingua.net">http://www.certilingua.net</a> )	partly afternoon tuition	Bonn-Centre
Hardtberg-Gymnasium <a href="http://www.hardtberg-gymnasium.de">www.hardtberg-gymnasium.de</a>	bilingual curriculum with subject tuition in German/French, completion = access to French universities CertiLingua-School ( <a href="http://www.certilingua.net">http://www.certilingua.net</a> ) Optional qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DELF Diploma (French)</li> <li>• Cambridge ESOL Certificate (Englisch)</li> </ul>	partly afternoon tuition	Bonn-Hardtberg
Nicolaus-Cusanus-Gymnasium <a href="http://ncg-bonn.eu">http://ncg-bonn.eu</a>	bilingual curriculum with subject tuition in German-English Optional qualifications: DELF Diploma (French)	partly afternoon tuition	Bonn-Bad Godesberg
Helmholtz-Gymnasium <a href="http://www.helmholtz-bonn.de">www.helmholtz-bonn.de</a>	bilingual curriculum with subject tuition in German-English; Optional qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DELF Diploma (French)</li> <li>• Cambridge ESOL Certificate (Englisch)</li> <li>• Chinese (upper grades)</li> </ul>	partly afternoon tuition all-day school being built up from school year 2010/2011 upwards, beginning with grade 5	Bonn-Hardtberg
Erzbischöfliches St. Adelheid-Gymnasium <a href="http://www.sag-bonn.de">www.sag-bonn.de</a>	bilingual curriculum with subject tuition in German-English CertiLingua-School ( <a href="http://www.certilingua.net">http://www.certilingua.net</a> ) Optional qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DELF Diploma (French)</li> <li>• Cambridge ESOL Certificate (Englisch)</li> </ul>	partly afternoon tuition	Bonn-Beuel

**State vocational colleges (5)**

<b>Berufskollegs</b>	For upper grades only (aiming at the German Abitur or qualification for universities of applied sciences)	mainly all-day	Bonn-Nord, Hardtberg, Bad Godesberg
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Robert-Wetzlar-Berufskolleg <a href="http://www.rwbk-bonn.de">www.rwbk-bonn.de</a>	UNESCO-Project School	all-day school	Bonn-Nord
Heinrich-Hertz-Europakolleg <a href="http://www.hhek-bonn.de">www.hhek-bonn.de</a>	Certified European School (Europaschule NRW): <a href="http://www.europaschulen.nrw.de">www.europaschulen.nrw.de</a>	all-day school	Bonn-Nord

Private Schools (Additional schools – Ergänzungsschulen)			
Bonn International School (BIS) <a href="http://www.bis-bonn.org">www.bis-bonn.org</a>	additional school; Primary School, Secondary School, High School, IB Exam	all-day school	Bonn-Plittersdorf (residential area, near the UN-Campus)
King Fahd Academy	additional school; Arabic primary and Secondary school for pupils of the Arabic language who are temporarily resident in Germany, grades 1-12	all-day school	Bonn-Pennenfeld (Centre-South)
Libysch-Arabische El-Fateh-Schule	additional school; Arab Primary and Secondary school for pupils of the Arabic language who are temporarily resident in Germany, grades 1-10	8.45 am to 2.15 pm	Bonn-Plittersdorf (near the UN-Campus)

Apart from the schools in Bonn, there are a number of **international schools outside of Bonn** which require some commuting:

English:

St. George's School, Cologne  
[www.stgeorgesschool.de](http://www.stgeorgesschool.de)

French:

Lycée Français de Düsseldorf  
[www.lfdd.de](http://www.lfdd.de)

Gymnasium Kreuzgasse Cologne  
[www.kreuzgasse.de](http://www.kreuzgasse.de)

Japanese:

The Japanese International School in Düsseldorf  
[www.jisd.de](http://www.jisd.de)

Italian:

Instituto Italo Svevo Cologne  
[www.italo-svevo-koeln.de](http://www.italo-svevo-koeln.de)

Montessori-Gymnasium Cologne  
[www.monte-koeln.de](http://www.monte-koeln.de)

German/English/Spanish:  
Internationale Friedensschule Cologne  
[www.if-koeln.de](http://www.if-koeln.de)

### 2.3.3 The University of Bonn

Science and research are an established tradition in our city. Bonn's university was founded in 1818 and currently has more than 28,000 students from over 140 countries. This university has produced 2 Nobel Prize Laureates in its recent history. In terms of the number of guest professors from other countries involved in top-flight research and interdisciplinary research programs focusing on cutting-edge developments, the University of Bonn ranks amongst the top ten German universities. The long list of professors who have taught in Bonn comprises well known names, such as theologian Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI today. Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche and Konrad Adenauer graduated from this university.

#### History

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität was founded on 18 October 1818 by King Friedrich Wilhelm III., whose rule of the Rhineland as part of Prussia began in 1815. Predecessor to the present University of Bonn was the Academy established in 1777, which then received the status of University in 1786, but fell victim to the political changes brought about by the French Revolution. From the beginning there were two Faculties (or Schools) of Theology, besides the Faculties of Law, Medicine and Arts. In 1928 the Economics Section was transferred from the Faculty of Arts to the Faculty of Law. The former *Landwirtschaftliche Hochschule* (Agricultural College) in Bonn-Poppelsdorf, founded as an agricultural training institution in 1847, was added to the University in 1934 and today constitutes the Faculty of Agriculture. In 1936 the Mathematics / Natural Sciences Section branched off to form a separate faculty.

#### The University Today

The *Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn* is among the largest universities in Germany. The University offers roughly 80 major and minor fields of study in various degree programmes. Bonn University is a renowned academic institution, with a bias towards international cooperation. In terms of the number of guest professors from other countries involved in top-flight research, Bonn University ranks amongst the top ten German universities. Together with the roughly 100 Humboldt research fellows ([www.humboldt-foundation.de](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de)) visiting each year, they add to the international dimension of teaching and research in Bonn.

The institutes, departments and clinics of the University are not concentrated in a campus, but scattered over a number of sites in the city. The main building, which houses both Faculties of Theology, Humanities, the Faculty of Arts and the administration, is located in the city centre, as are the Law School and the University Library. Most of the Natural Sciences Institutes and the Faculty of Agriculture are situated in the adjacent Poppelsdorf and Endenich districts. The clinics of the Medical Faculty are concentrated in a complex on the Venusberg hill.

The International Office (*Akademisches Auslandsamt*) is responsible for co-ordinating the University's foreign contacts. In addition to comprehensive formal partnerships, there are various co-operative agreements. Regular student exchanges take place with numerous universities around the world, including highly renowned institutions in

the United States, Great Britain, France, Japan, Poland, Canada, Australia, Finland, Italy, Spain, Sweden and China. The University also participates in mobility programmes organised by the European Union, such as ERASMUS, Tempus and Lingua programmes. There are also special programmes for foreign students and graduates. In addition, individual institutes maintain a large number of contacts with foreign universities.

### **Studying at the University**

Like many other universities in Europe, the University of Bonn offers courses of study leading to a Bachelor's and Master's degree.

The International Office can provide information on all aspects of study at the University of Bonn, including the "German Language Proficiency Test", preparatory course, application and registration:

Akademisches Auslandsamt

(International Office)

Poppelsdorfer Allee 53

53115 Bonn

[www3.uni-bonn.de/einrichtungen/international-office/AAA](http://www3.uni-bonn.de/einrichtungen/international-office/AAA)

Application and registration forms are available from and must be submitted to the *Studentensekretariat* (Registrar's Office). Application deadlines are 15th January for the summer semester and 15th July for the winter semester.

Detailed information is offered on the internet: [www3.uni-bonn.de](http://www3.uni-bonn.de)

*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst DAAD* (German Academic Exchange Service) provides information material in various foreign languages on studying in the Federal Republic of Germany. This material can be ordered or downloaded from DAAD.

DAAD

Kennedyallee 50

53175 Bonn

Phone: (0228) 8 82-0

Internet: [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

### **Universities in the Bonn region**

The traditional Universities of Bonn and of Cologne are highly renowned; they offer the entire range of humanities and scientific fields, as well as bilingual and bi-national study courses. The German Sports Academy, an Academy of the Arts and a Music Conservatory are also part of the Cologne University. A number of specific Universities for Applied Sciences are available in the Bonn region, in Cologne and in Aachen.

The TIASNIMBAS Business school is located near the UN Campus and focuses on post-experience management education, offering several post-graduate study programs and part-time programs in Bonn:

TiasNimbass Business School  
 UN Campus  
 Platz der Vereinten Nationen 7  
 53113 Bonn  
 Phone: (0228) 259 00 30  
[www.tiasnimbas.edu](http://www.tiasnimbas.edu)

<b>List of Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences in Bonn and the surrounding region</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Location</b>
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität University of Bonn – bilingual study courses available – <a href="http://www.uni-bonn.de">www.uni-bonn.de</a>	Bonn
Hochschule der Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe University of Applied Sciences for Finance <a href="http://www.s-hochschule.de">www.s-hochschule.de</a>	Bonn
Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Science Bonn/Rhein-Sieg <a href="http://www.fh-bonn-rhein-sieg.de">www.fh-bonn-rhein-sieg.de</a>	Departments in Sankt Augustin, Rheinbach and Hennef (approximately 15 – 20 minutes from Bonn)
Alanus Hochschule für Kunst und Gesellschaft Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences <a href="http://www.alanus.edu">www.alanus.edu</a>	Alfter
Internationale Hochschule Bad Honnef • Bonn (IUBH) International University of Applied Sciences Bad Honnef • Bonn (IUBH) <a href="http://www.iubh.de">www.iubh.de</a>	Bad Honnef (10 km)
Fachhochschule Koblenz, Rhein Ahr Campus Remagen University of Applied Science Rhein Ahr Campus <a href="http://www.rheinahrcampus.de">www.rheinahrcampus.de</a>	Remagen (25 minutes south of Bonn)
Universität zu Köln University of Cologne (all faculties) – bilingual study courses available – <a href="http://www.uni-koeln.de">www.uni-koeln.de</a>	Cologne (30 km)
Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln Academy of Music and Dance in Cologne <a href="http://www.hfmt-koeln.de">www.hfmt-koeln.de</a>	Cologne
Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln German Sport University Cologne <a href="http://www.dshs-koeln.de">www.dshs-koeln.de</a>	Cologne
2 Universities of Applied Sciences in Cologne:  Fachhochschule Köln <a href="http://www.fh-koeln.de">www.fh-koeln.de</a>  Rheinische Fachhochschule Köln <a href="http://www.rfh-koeln.de">www.rfh-koeln.de</a>	Cologne
Cologne Business School (CBS) European University of Applied Sciences <a href="http://www.cbs-edu.de">www.cbs-edu.de</a>	Cologne

Katholische Hochschule Nordrhein-Westfalen Catholic University of Applied Sciences <a href="http://www.katho-nrw.de">www.katho-nrw.de</a>	Cologne
Macromedia Hochschule für Medien und Kommunikation – Fachhochschule University of Applied Sciences <a href="http://www.macromedia-hochschule.de">www.macromedia-hochschule.de</a>	Cologne
Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen (RWTH Aachen) University for Technology, Aachen <a href="http://www.rwth-aachen.de">www.rwth-aachen.de</a>  Fachhochschule Aachen University of Applied Science <a href="http://www.fh-aachen.de">www.fh-aachen.de</a>	Aachen (distance: 60 – 90 min.)

## 2.3.4 Child Care in Bonn

### Kindergartens

German kindergartens admit children from three to six years of age. The kindergartens are co-funded either by the churches - *Evangelisch* (Protestant) or *Katholisch* (Catholic) - or by parents' initiatives or by the municipal authorities. Class size varies, but is generally around 25. The goal is to improve the child's independent action and orientation in their surroundings. Free play is encouraged. Hours are from 7.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m. The number of kindergartens that offer longer opening hours as well as a lunch for the children has increased over the past years.

Fees depend on the parents' annual income and on the opening hours of the institution.

### Day-Care Centres (*Kindertagesstätten*)

In day-care centres the children receive lunch and have the opportunity to have a nap at midday. Class size is about 20. Hours from 7.30 a.m. - 4.30 or 5.00 p.m. Day-care centres too are co-funded either by the churches, by parents' initiatives or by the local authorities.

Day-care centres provide services for children from four months to six years of age.

Fees are based on the parents' annual income and are higher, as they cover longer opening hours and lunch.

### Registering a child

Parents should visit the kindergarten or day-care centre in their area to personally register their child.

Admission is based on certain criteria, including the child's age. Older children will normally be admitted before younger children to allow every child ample time in kindergarten before moving on to school.

For further information, please contact the Family Service Center of the local Office for Children, Youth and Family under 0228-77 4070 or send an email to [familienbuero@bonn.de](mailto:familienbuero@bonn.de)

## Private Childminders

In addition, there are also a large number of childminders and private day care facilities available. Some stay-home mothers also decide to attend a playgroup nearby (*Spielkreis*).

Babies and children may be cared for by a daytime childminder (*Tagesmutter*). These private services or initiatives cost approximately EUR 300 - 500 per month per child. The price may be higher, depending on the number of private day care hours needed, and usually decreases with every additional child of one family. The hourly rate is around EUR 5 per child.

The municipal Office for Children, Youth and Family can assist in finding appropriate childminders. It also fosters a *Netzwerk für Kinder in Tagesbetreuung* (Network for Children Day Care) for children from the age of 0 to 18/19; it is open to children of every nationality who have newly come to the city or have not yet found a place in public institutions.

## List of Daycare Facilities in Bonn

<b>Day-care facilities and preschool for children up to the age of 6</b>			
<b>(roughly 210 municipal and private institutions)</b>			
<b>Number of places</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Hours/day</b>	<b>Distance</b>
Day Nursery approx. 2,100	4 months to 3 years	Mostly all day	in every area
Approx. 9,000 kindergarten and day-care places	3 to 6 years	7:30 am to 12:30 pm, in some cases 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (no lunch)	in every area, a very dense network
		7 hours daily – e.g. 7:00 am to 2:00 pm or 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (including lunch)	in every area
		7:00 am or 7:30 am to 4:30 pm or 5:00 pm (including lunch)	in every area
6 English-speaking daycare facilities, one of which also offers a French-speaking group	minimum 4 months	All day	in various parts of the city
1 French-speaking daycare facility	minimum 3 years	All day	Bonn-Mehlem (South, residential area)
1 Spanish-speaking daycare facility	minimum 2 years	All day	Bonn-Neu- Plittersdorf (South, residential area)

In the direct vicinity of the UN Campus, in the international quarter, another daycare facility for international employees' children will open its doors in the near future.

### **2.3.5 Other Educational Offers in Bonn**

There is also a broad selection of non-school-based education for children and adults, including an abundance of municipal and private music schools, family education facilities, evening classes, adult education centers and language schools. Below, we have listed some basic information on music schools and German language classes.

#### **Music Schools**

The municipal music school and a number of private music schools offer a wide variety of courses for children, young people and adults. The City of Bonn runs music schools in all parts of the city. Instruction is given in nearly all instruments. Children can begin musical education at the age of three. Lessons are usually given in the afternoon or in the evening.

More information on the municipal music school available under [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

#### **German Language Classes**

Goethe-Institut  
Lennéstr. 6  
53113 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 9 57 56-0  
Internet: <http://www.goethe.de>

The Goethe-Institut in Bonn was founded in 1985 originally for the members of the diplomatic corps. Today, students of more than 60 nationalities learn the German language here by means of

- intensive courses (25 lessons a week)
- semi-intensive courses (10 lessons a week)
- individual courses at all levels

Berlitz School  
Oxfordstr. 24  
53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 65 50 05  
Internet: <http://www.berlitz.de>

Inlingua  
Am Markt 10 - 12  
53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 63 42 55  
Internet: <http://www.inlingua.de>

Institut für Sprachvermittlung und internationalen Kulturaustausch (language studies and international cultural exchange)  
Fritz-Erler-Strasse 32 - 34  
Phone: (0228) 35 35 10  
Internet: <http://www.ifs-deutsch.de>

Interschola  
Theodor-Heuss-Straße 14  
53177 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 35 68 08  
[www.interschola.de](http://www.interschola.de)

Volkshochschule (VHS) of the City of Bonn (Adult Education Center)  
Wilhelmstraße 34  
53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 77 45 41 Phone: (0228) 77 35 56  
[www.vhs-bonn.de](http://www.vhs-bonn.de)

VHS (Adult Education Centre) offers four levels of German as well as a good selection of courses (some intensive) in other subjects between 5 and 10 p.m. on weekdays, with some morning courses offered as well. Courses are held at several locations in the city. Certificate courses are also run. Semesters run approximately from August to December and from January to May/June.

Booklets listing courses with times and dates can be obtained from the Bonn or Bad Godesberg Information Offices, at local book stores, banks or by contacting the VHS offices in the various city districts.

University of Bonn (*Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität*)  
Akademisches Auslandsamt (International Office)  
Poppelsdorfer Allee 53  
53115 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 73-76 26  
(Dezernat für internationale Angelegenheiten/Internationales Zentrum der Universität Bonn) [www.uni-bonn.de/Internationales.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/Internationales.html)

The *Akademisches Auslandsamt* (International Office) of Bonn University offers classes in the German language only for foreign students enrolled at the university. Semesters run from October-February and April-July. Enquire for enrolment dates at the end of August or February.

Intensive German course - only for students intending to take up regular studies at the Bonn University after the end of the course (examination). Applications must be submitted to the *Studentensekretariat* (Registrar's Office) of the University. For the winter semester, the deadline is mid-July; for the summer semester, mid-January. Applicants must have the equivalent of an American Junior College diploma.

International Summer Course - German language, literature and culture with seminars, workshops and excursions for foreign students. Held during August for three weeks. Information and application from January at the Akademisches Auslandsamt (International Office) of the University, University of Bonn.

#### Private Teachers

The local newspaper *General-Anzeiger* carries advertisements for other institutions and private teachers under the heading '*Unterricht*' (lessons). Saturday is the best day to look or to advertise.

### 2.3.6 The Job Market

The Bonn region enjoys very favourable job market conditions, with a relatively low rate of unemployment. This is due to the fact that more than two-thirds of employees in Bonn work in the service sector and the administration. Since 1988 the unemployment figure has continuously been below the national average and the comparison figure for North Rhine-Westphalia.

In order to work in Germany, you must have a work permit (*Arbeitserlaubnis*). Citizens of EU member states enjoy the same status as German nationals. All others must apply for a work permit (if they are not exempt from it by a special agreement) at the city administration of Bonn. The *Agentur für Arbeit Bonn* (Employment Agency) will then comment on this application and investigate whether the vacancy has to remain available for a privileged unemployed person.

The Employment Agency Bonn also offers job placement, job counselling and personal career counselling assistance: Careers information is available in the *Berufsinformationszentrum* (BIZ – careers information centre). The Virtual Working Market (called VAM) is a self-service job market that is updated daily. You may use the web-page of the *Bundesagentur für Arbeit*: [www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de) for further information and job offers.

Another possibility is to contact *Vermittlungsagenturen* (placement agencies) and *Zeitarbeitsfirmen* (temporary job placement agencies).

Foreigners who are authorised to be employed but for whom reasonable work cannot be immediately found, receive unemployment funds or unemployment assistance under certain circumstances, according to the law on employment support. Periods of employment completed and insurance paid abroad may be recognized under the terms of international agreements.

Agentur für Arbeit  
Villemombler Straße 101  
53104 Bonn – Duisdorf (Hardtberg)  
Phone: 0180-1555 111  
[www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de)

Berufsinformationszentrum BIZ (Careers Information Centre)  
and  
Hochschulteam der Agentur für Arbeit Bonn  
(University Team of the Employment Agency)  
Villemombler Straße 101  
531 04 Bonn – Duisdorf (Hardtberg)  
Phone: (0228) 924- 0  
Email: [bonn.biz@arbeitsagentur.de](mailto:bonn.biz@arbeitsagentur.de)

## 2.4 Banking

Bonn's banks and savings banks (*Sparkassen*) offer services to meet all of your banking needs, including foreign currency transactions, securities business and customer investment advice. Most credit institutions also offer building loan savings plans, building finance, life insurance and real estate brokerage services. The post office also offers banking services. All banks are under state supervision.

Banking hours are generally 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on workdays with a 1 ½ hour break for lunch. Most banks remain open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays and close at 3 p.m. on Fridays. Automatic teller machines provide cash dispensing services to bank card holders 24 hours a day. Large local banks may have longer opening hours.

To open a current account (*Girokonto*), you must provide proof of identity. You may have your statement printed (*Kontoauszug*) at any branch or your monthly statements can be posted to you. Money can be drawn from the account in a number of ways:

*Überweisung* - money transfer from one account to another. Completed by filling out the appropriate form, an "*Überweisungsformular*".

*Dauerauftrag* - standing order. You may authorise a fixed amount to be transferred to another account at regular intervals, for example to pay rent or utilities.

*Lastschriftverfahren (Einzugsermächtigung)* - debit procedure. You may authorise a party to withdraw a variable amount from your account, for example to pay utilities or telephone bills.

*Euroscheckkarte*: You may use the *Euroscheckkarte (ec-Karte)* to draw cash from automatic teller machines. Most shops accept the *Euroscheckkarte* like a credit card.

Please note that credit cards are not universally accepted in Germany. Some food stores and restaurants accept cash only.

A savings account (*Sparkonto*) earns - depending on the sum - about 1-2.5% interest annually. For other possibilities of deposits contact your banking institute.

Many banks offer online services, and some do so in English. Online banking is available in English and Turkish at *Sparkasse Bonn*, for instance.

## **2.5 Culture – Leisure – Sports**

Cultural life in Bonn is very attractive: apart from the great variety of museums located in and around the city centre, there are many theatres of different types and sizes and the Opera of Bonn that all offer high-quality programs (see Part 1). Every autumn, the International Beethoven Festival takes place in Bonn, attracting visitors from all parts of the world. Cinemas showing films in their original versions (*WOKI*, *Kinopolis*, *Brotfabrik*, for instance) also form part of the tradition of Bonn's international and university life. The vibrant city and its colourful and cosmopolitan neighbours Cologne and Düsseldorf, as well as the surrounding region, all offer a wealth of attractions, including many that are aimed at the younger generation.

An abundance of sports and leisure facilities are another typical advantage for people, in particular families and young people, living in Bonn. Besides a number of about 300 sport clubs of varied types and with mostly moderate fees in every urban district, a plethora of private health clubs and gyms as well as golf greens and swimming pools are available. For more information, visit [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

In Bonn, the romantic Rhine Valley begins, surrounded by lovely hills crowned with ancient castles. In this beautiful landscape, never further away than 15 minutes, hills and vast forests offer lots of possibilities for sports in the open and outings in every season of the year.

### **The Siebengebirge Hills and the Sieg river valley**

Across the Rhine from the Federal City lies Germany's oldest nature preserve, the Siebengebirge. The favourite destination is the Drachenfels hill, 321 metres high, which can be reached via one of the oldest rack railways in Germany or even on the back of a donkey - for children only. Further points of interest include the Konrad-Adenauer-Haus in Rhöndorf (home of the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany) and the Siebengebirgsmuseum Königswinter.

For more information, visit:

Tourismus Siebengebirge GmbH

[www.siebengebirge.com](http://www.siebengebirge.com)

### **The Siegtal (Sieg river valley)**

Offers abundant opportunities for recreation - from tennis to golf to canoe trips. There is also a rich and varied selection of cultural attractions, including St. Michael's Benedictine Abbey at Siegburg. Further information:

More information available under:

[www.tourismus-siegburg.de](http://www.tourismus-siegburg.de)

### **Vorgebirge and Voreifel**

For tourist attractions on the other side of the Rhine river, you may obtain information under:

[www.rheinbach.de](http://www.rheinbach.de)

or:

[www.rhein-voreifel-touristik.de](http://www.rhein-voreifel-touristik.de)

It is possible to hike in the footsteps of the Romans, Celts, Alemanni or Franks, for example by exploring the remains of the Roman aqueduct, which extends from the Eifel region to Cologne. A visit to the Glass Museum in Rheinbach also offers a glimpse at a fine collection of historic glass. Further attractions include a coach museum and the ruins of Tomburg castle.

### **The Rhine, Brohl, and Ahr River Valleys**

The **Rhine valley** between Brohl-Lützingen and Rolandswerth is especially romantic. Whether by car, train, bike or boat, the region is certainly worth touring. The fairy tale forest at Bad Breisig and the wildlife park at Rolandseck are especially suitable for children.

There are many lovely **castles** around the Rhine / Mosel valleys. Particularly noteworthy are Burg Eltz near the Moselle river ([www.burg-eltz.de](http://www.burg-eltz.de)); the ruins of Burg Rheinfels and Marksburg near Koblenz – the best preserved Rhine castle.

The **Brohl Valley** was formed by powerful volcanic activity that left a permanent mark. A trip with the "*Vulkan Express*" narrow-gauge railway is highly recommended, a couple of times a month it is pulled by a steam train. See: [www.vulkan-express.de](http://www.vulkan-express.de). *Laacher See* (a volcanic lake) and 800-year-old *Maria Laach Abbey* are also worth a visit.

The many wine festivals from April to September bear witness to the **Ahr Valley's** extensive wine-making tradition. Special attractions are the Red Wine Trail (*Rotwein-Wanderweg* – for hiking), the Roman Villa on *Silberberg* hill near Ahrweiler and the *Nürburgring* race track with its racing museum 'Erlebnisswelt Autos-Action-Attraction. More information can be found under:

[www.ahrtaal.de](http://www.ahrtaal.de)

[www.hocheifel-nuerburgring.de](http://www.hocheifel-nuerburgring.de)

Set in a large park / wood, the **Rheinisches Freilichtmuseum**, Kommern-Mechernich shows a collection of buildings from all over the Rheinland, some dating back to 16<sup>th</sup> century. Some exhibits include people dressed in period costume undertaking tasks of daily village life e.g. blacksmithing, baking, spinning. Other highlights are a traditional funfair each year and a doll and toys museum.

[www.kommern.lvr.de](http://www.kommern.lvr.de)

### **Cologne**

Famous for its cathedral (*Dom*) and early Roman remains, Cologne (*Köln*) also has many interesting churches, museums, art galleries and a wealth of attractions, including a large shopping area and a beautiful zoo. A good guide to Cologne is available at the Verkehrsamt (tourist information office) opposite the cathedral.

Famous museums include the Romano-Germanic Museum, the Praetorium (impressive excavated area of a Roman Imperial Palace), Museum Ludwig, Wallraf-Richartz Museum, the Arts and Crafts Museum, a museum displaying art from China, Japan and Corea, a chocolate museum and the German Sports and Olympic Museum.

For more information, visit:

[www.stadt-koeln.de](http://www.stadt-koeln.de)

or

[www.koelntourismus.de](http://www.koelntourismus.de)

Cologne Zoo

Riehler Straße 173

Large zoo with a large modern elephant habitat, an interesting aquarium and a fine bird collection

[www.koelnerzoo.de](http://www.koelnerzoo.de)

You should not miss visiting **Augustusburg Palace in Brühl**, a magnificent 18<sup>th</sup> century building and park. It has rightly been included in the UNESCO world cultural and natural heritage sites. Easily accessible by train. To go inside the palace, you must join a tour, but headsets can be rented for a translation in English. There are concerts and fireworks at the palace in summer.

[www.schlossbruehl.de](http://www.schlossbruehl.de)

Bonn is situated in one of the most beautiful regions of the Rhineland.

The many beautiful old, traditional towns in this area also include **Bad Münstereifel**, for instance, which has an almost completely preserved town wall or **Stadt Blankenberg**, a tiny medieval village overlooking the Sieg river valley.

## A choice of events in Bonn and surroundings throughout the year:

- Carnival: the season officially starts on 11.11 at 11hrs 11 minutes; from that time on, expect to hear about Carnival choice of prince and a number of other traditions and events. The Carnival high point starts six weeks before Easter, usually in February, the first event being “*Weiberfastnacht*” (Thursday) when women take over. Men should wear old ties as women will cut them off on that day, beware! “*Rosenmontag*”, heart of the Carnival: you will see parades in various centres during the day, candies are thrown into the crowd. However most of the Carnival festivities take place indoors in pubs, association halls, etc.  
If you are planning to go to one of those, don't forget to dress accordingly. Cologne has a particularly large Carnival parade.
- In May look for the “*Rhein in Flammen*”. Beautiful fireworks all along the river crowned by spectacular fireworks in the Rheinaue park.  
First Saturday in May. Entrance free.
- In May German people like to drink a “Maibowle”: white wine with a seasonal herb. Ask for it in “*Weinstuben*” or in “*Biergartens*”.
- In May/June the Museum Mile Festival invites to a lot of attractions for all ages
- In July, the “Bier Börse”, a beer fair will take place. You will get a chance to try different kinds of beer from all over the world.
- Over the summer, several bands will perform at Rheinaue park as part of a new concert series titled Kunst! Rasen Gronau, near the UN Campus.
- During the summer there are usually a number of other events and festivals at Rheinaue park, such as a balloon festival and a very large flea market on every third Saturday of the month.  
There are also plenty of other second-hand, antique, pottery, etc. markets through the year in Bonn and surroundings. They are usually advertised in the local paper (General-Anzeiger), in the Saturday edition under the section Boulevard.
- Pützchens Markt at Beuel. Enormous fun fair held in early September.
- The fall is the time to drink fresh wine with onion pie. “*Federweisser and Zwiebelkuchen*” is served just about everywhere.
- Open pottery (Töpferei) weekend in Adendorf, a traditional pottery village, usually in October, with demonstrations, sales and opportunities to make your own pottery (for children).
- At the end of October, the City of Bonn celebrates United Nations Day with a festival on the city's Market Square.
- In November St Martin's day is celebrated. Children join parades in the streets

with lanterns, sometimes following a man on horseback dressed as the Roman soldier, St Martin. The parade usually ends with a bonfire and children are given a “*Weckmann*” – a bread man.

- Christmas Markets: before Christmas you will find Christmas Markets in most town and city centres (Bonn centre, Bad Godesberg centre, several in Cologne, etc.). Siegburg has a unique medieval fair. It is recommended to visit it in the late afternoon when you can soak up the “medieval” atmosphere by the light of flaming torches.
- Burg Satzvey, in Kommern, also has a medieval Christmas market. It also has a medieval fair, jousting tournament and other special events throughout the year.  
[www.burgsatzvey.de](http://www.burgsatzvey.de)

More local information can be found on [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de).

And for even more choices on what to do and where to go, visit:

Tourismus & Congress GmbH  
Region Bonn / Rhein-Sieg / Ahrweiler  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 2  
[www.bonn-region.de](http://www.bonn-region.de)

## 2.6 Religious Services

Many religions are represented in the Bonn area. Listed here are the religious communities that offer foreign language services.

### Christian:

#### **Centrum Lebendiges Wort**

Freie Christengemeinde Bonn e.V.  
Quellenstr. 17, 53177 Bonn  
Phone: (0228)88 6 88 71  
Service: on Sundays

first service at 9.30 a.m. and second service at 12 p.m.

both in German and simultaneously translated into **Chinese, Russian, Persian, English and on demand Polish and Spanish**

#### **American Protestant Church - an International Congregation**

Kennedyallee 150

53175 Bonn

Phone: (0228) 37 41 93

Service: on Sundays

Until April 8<sup>th</sup> first service at 9.30 a.m. and second service at 11.15 a.m. **(English)**

From April 8<sup>th</sup> on just one service on Sundays starting at 10.30 a.m **(English)**

#### **St. Winfried Church**

Sträßchenweg 3, 53113 Bonn

Phone: (0228) 23 88 90  
Mass: on Sundays  
at 9.45 a.m. (**Spanish**)  
and at 12.45 p.m. (**Philippine**)

**Greek Orthodox**

Metropolie Agia Trias  
Dietrich-Bonhoefferstr. 2, 53227 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 97 37 84 11  
Services:  
Saturday 6 p.m. in winter, 7 p.m. in summer (**Greek**)  
Sunday 9.30 a.m. (**Greek**)

**Stiftskirche St. Johann Baptist und Petrus**

Kölnstr. 31, 53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 63 48 48  
Mass:  
Friday 7.00 p.m. (**Polish**)  
Sunday 12.15 p.m. (**Polish**)

**St. Joseph Church**

Kaiser-Karl-Ring 2, 53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 55 91 90  
Mass:  
Sunday 11.30 a.m. (**Portuguese**)

Freie Evangelische Gemeinde Bonn

**Service for Arab Christians**

Hatschiorgasse 12, 53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0179) 4739514 Elia Daoud  
Service: Sunday 3 p.m. (**Arabic**)

Freie Evangelische Gemeinde Bonn

**Chinese Service**

Hatschiorgasse 19, 53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 33 83 88 0  
Service: Saturday 9 a.m. (**Chinese**)

**St. Andreas Church**

Andreasstr. 1, 53179 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 36 34 68  
Mass:  
Sunday 11 a.m. (**French**)

**St. Thomas More-International Catholic Community**

**Heilig Kreuz Church**

Cheruskerstraße 11, 53175 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 36 34 68  
Mass:  
Sunday 9.30 a.m. (**English**)

**Ethiopian Church-** Harvest Äthiopische Evangelische Kirchengemeinde  
hosted by Freie Evangelische Gemeinde Bonn  
Hatschiergasse 19, 53111 Bonn  
Phone: (02244) 870641  
Mass:  
Sunday 3.30 p.m. (**Ethiopic**)

**Name Jesu Kirche**  
Bonngasse, 53111 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 9144510  
Mass:  
Sunday, 11.15 a.m. (**Croatian**)

**Iglesia Cristiana Hispanohablante Bonn e.V.**  
Friesdorferstrasse 194, 53175 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 68832828  
Mass:  
Sunday 10.45 a.m. (**Spanish**)

**Gemeinde „Die Liebe Christi“**  
Pützchens Chaussee  
53227 Bonn-Beuel  
Phone: (0228) 66 09 01  
Service:  
Sunday 10.00 a.m. (**German-Russian**)

**Handok Christengemeinde Bonn**  
Kennedy-Allee 150  
53175 Bonn-Bad Godesberg  
Phone: (0228) 235890  
Service:  
Sunday 1.30 p.m. (**German-Korean**)

**Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Boniface, Bonn**  
St. Boniface, Rigalsche Kapelle  
Kurfürstenallee 11, Bad Godesberg  
Service:  
Sunday 9.30 a.m. (**English**)  
Haus Steinbach chapel in Mehlem, Rüdigerstrasse, Bonn

**American Protestant Church - Stimson Memorial**  
Chapel (Interdenominational)  
Kennedyallee 150- 53175 Bonn  
Phone: (0228) 37 41 93  
Worship Services: Sunday 9.30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. except for July and August, then  
at 10:30 a.m. only (**English**)

**St. Thomas Morus Church**  
Pommernstraße 1, 53119 Bonn-Tannenbusch  
Phone: (0228) 66 11 40  
They have a **Korean and Iraqi Community**

**St Hedwig Church**

Mackestraße 43, 53119 Bonn

Phone: (0228) 66 11 40

They have a **Vietnamese Community**

**St Margareta Church**

Margarethenplatz 6, 53117 Bonn Grau-Rheindorf

Phone: (0228) 66 11 40

They have a **Romanian Community**

**Bahá-i Gemeinde Bonn**

Pappelweg 84, Bad Godesberg

Phone: (0228) 35 09 484

**Jewish:****Jewish Synagogue** (Synagogengemeinde Bonn)

Tempelstr. 2, Bonn

Phone: (0228) 21 35 60

Worship:

Saturday 9.30 a.m. (**Hebrew**)

**Islamic:****Bonner Moscheen Gemeinschaft e.V.**

Maxstraße 60, 53111 Bonn

Phone: (0228) 9 76 85 03

**Buddhist:**

Bonn Buddhist Association

Friesdorfer Str. 75

53173 Bonn

Phone: (0228) 318 844

Haus Siddharta

Denglerstr. 22

53173 Bonn

Phone: (0228) 93 59 369

**Hindu:**

The closest Hindu temple is located in Cologne.

## 2.7 Environment & Waste Management

The increasing concern for environmental issues is reflected in Germany's waste collection system. Bonn has developed a special waste management concept. There are strict laws for waste disposal and fines for violating them. Household waste goes in the grey bin. Plastic, metal, paper, compost and hazardous waste are collected separately. The tenant or homeowner pays the costs of waste collection. Bottlebanks are located at convenient spots all over the city. Packaging waste, such as shoe boxes, may be left in the shop where the product is purchased. The majority of our household waste is recyclable. At the same time, there are numerous ways to avoid creating waste and thus to help conserve our natural resources and the environment. An "*Abfallkalender*" (waste calendar) distributed annually to all households contains the dates for the various collections for each area. It also lists the points of contact for the collection of waste that is not sorted into the bins.

Homes in Bonn sort four ways:

1 Blue bins: clean paper

2 Yellow bins (*Gelbe Tonne*): Plastic and Metal. Packaging, e.g. milk cartons. Anything with the "*Der Grüne Punkt*" (green dot) marking on it can go in the yellow bin.

3 Green bins (*Biomüll*): include anything vegetable, egg shells, flowers, mowed grass etc. good for compost. But no meat/fish, no dairy produce and no cooked food.

4 Grey bins (*Restmüll*): Household waste. Everything that is not recyclable: ash, dirty packaging, light bulbs, food leftovers, nappies / diapers etc.

For more information, visit [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

## 2.8 Medical Care

### 2.8.1 Emergency Telephone Numbers

Ambulance 112

Fire 112

Police 110

Doctors' Emergency Call Centre (*Arztnotrufzentrale*) 0180 – 50 44 100

On duty Pharmacies 01805 – 93 88 88

On duty Dentists 0180 – 59 86 700 (recorded message in German)

Poisoning emergency (0228) 192 40

University Children's Clinic (0228) 287 33333

Emergency Transport (0228) 19 222 and 65 22 11

### 2.8.2 Doctors and Rehabilitation

Qualified general practitioners, dentists and a great number of specialists provide health care in Bonn. The *Gelbe Seiten* (Yellow Pages) list various types of doctors under "*Ärzte*". It is a good idea to phone ahead for an appointment. Most doctors speak English.

The glossary will help to find the category you are looking for.

Allgemeinmedizin	General practitioner
Anästhesiologie	Anaesthesiology
Augenheilkunde	Ophthalmology, eye diseases
Chirurgie	Surgery
Frauenheilkunde und Geburtshilfe	Gynaecology and obstetrics
Hals-, Nasen- und Ohrenheilkunde	Ear, nose and throat medicine
Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten	Skin and venereal diseases
Homöopathie	Homeopathy
Innere Medizin	Internal Medicine
Kardiologie	Cardiology
Kinderheilkunde	Paediatrics
Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie	Child and youth psychiatry
Kinderkardiologie	Child cardiology
Krankengymnastik	Physiotherapy
Laboratoriumsmedizin	Laboratory medicine
Lungen- und Bronchialheilkunde	Lung and bronchial medicine
Mund-, Kiefer- und Gesichtschirurgie	Mouth, jaw and facial surgery
Naturheilverfahren	Natural medical treatments
Nervenheilkunde	Neurology; psychiatry
Neurologie	Neurology
Nuklearmedizin	Nuclear medicine
Orthopädie (auch konserv. Chirurgie)	Orthopaedics
Pathologie	Pathology
Psychiatrie	Psychiatry
Psychoanalyse	Psychoanalysis
Psychotherapie	Psychotherapy
Physiotherapie, Krankengymnastik	Physiotherapy
Radiologie, diagnostische	Radiology, X-rays
Urologie	Urology
Zahnärzte	Dentists

For more information, visit: [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

Special information for migrant women may also be obtained from  
'Frauen Lernen Gemeinsam e.V. Migrantinnentreff Gülistan'

[www.migrantinnentreff-guelistan.de](http://www.migrantinnentreff-guelistan.de)

### 2.8.3 Pharmacies

Pharmacies are easily recognised by a big red "A" (Apotheke) sign. Hours are generally from 9 a. m. to 6.30 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 1.p.m. on Saturdays. Pharmacies take turns in providing after-hours services. A list of the pharmacies on duty is posted at the entrance of every pharmacy and published in the daily newspaper. Alternatively, telephone to find out the after-hours pharmacy. After-hours pharmacies: 01805 – 93 88 88 (recorded message in German) or visit [www.apotheken.de](http://www.apotheken.de)

## 2.8.4 Hospitals

The Bonn area has an excellent selection of hospitals and clinics. For more information, visit [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

For a planned hospital stay, you should bring your own pyjama, soap, towels and toiletries.

## 2.9 Who's Who of Formalities

As a newcomer to the City of Bonn, there are a number of formalities which you will need to take care of. This section is designed to help make these procedures as pleasant as possible.

### 2.9.1 Registration with the Authorities

All inhabitants over 16 years of age are required to register their address (Anmeldung) with the *Einwohnermeldeamt* (Registration Office) of their district within one week of their arrival. Employees of international organisations might be exempt from this requirement under certain circumstances.

Required documents:

a) Completed *Anmeldeformular* (registration form), available free of charge from the public offices of the City of Bonn in all districts, the City Hall Information Desk, Berliner Platz 2, 53111 Bonn, Information Desk of the District Administration Offices in the Town Halls at Bad Godesberg, Beuel and Hardtberg as well as from stationery shops, for a small fee. You may download or fill in the registration form also directly on the Bonn homepage:

[www.bonn.de / en / local government – public services online / civic services / Formulardepot / Umzug / Anmeldung nach dem Meldegesetz.](http://www.bonn.de/en/local-government-public-services-online/civic-services/Formulardepot/Umzug/Anmeldung-nach-dem-Meldegesetz)

b) Passport

The *Anmeldebestätigung* (confirmation of registration) which you receive is required for additional formalities, so keep it readily accessible. An authorised agent with written power of attorney may also submit the forms. When moving within the city, an *Ummeldeformular* (change of address form) is required. Before leaving Germany, it is necessary to complete an *Abmeldeformular* (cancellation of registration).

Further information is available from the Bürgerämter (Civic Offices). Phone: (0228) 77 66 77.

Appointments can be made in advance under [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

### 2.9.2 Residence Permit

Citizens of non-EU countries need a residence permit (*Aufenthaltserlaubnis*) for stays exceeding 3 months if not exempted by a special agreement. Application is dealt with at the

Ausländerabteilung, Oxfordstraße 19, 53111 Bonn, phone: (0228) 77- 60 00.

Appointments can be made in advance under [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

Required documents:

- a) Anmeldebestätigung (confirmation of registration)
- b) Passport
- c) Führungszeugnis (certificate of conduct)
- d) Gesundheitszeugnis (medical certificate)
- e) Proof of health insurance
- f) Proof that the individual can support himself/herself financially
- g) Two passport-sized photographs

A temporary residence permit (valid for three months) will be issued and may be renewed. A task force of four employees are exclusively dealing with the concerns of the international staff and family of the international organisations and the Secretariats of the United Nations, the University and the scientific institutions.

### **2.9.3 Motor Vehicle Registration**

Motor vehicles are registered (Kfz-Anmeldung) at the *Ordnungs- u. Straßenverkehrsamt* (Public Order and Road Traffic Office) of the City of Bonn, Stadthaus, Berliner Platz 2, Passage (Phone: (0228) 77-3314).

Required Documents

- a) Kfz-Brief (logbook)
- b) Proof of insurance
- c) Aufenthaltserlaubnis (residence permit)
- d) Passport or identification card

If you want to register a used car, you will also need:

- e) Fahrzeugschein (vehicle registration document)
- f) number plates
- g) TÜV/AU (mechanical and exhaust control)

If the car is imported from abroad, additional documents are required.

A motor vehicle tax (Kfz-Steuer) must be paid, unless you are exempt from taxes. Vehicles must also pass a safety inspection by the Technical Supervision Agency (TÜV). The TÜV safety inspection has to be carried out every two years.

EU nationals only need vehicle registration papers and a valid EU identification card.

More information available under [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

Diplomats/Officials of International Organisations:

To register your private vehicle, please enquire beforehand at the Protocol Division/Bonn Office of the Federal Foreign Office (Außenstelle Protokoll Bonn), Adenauerallee 99-103 (entry via Tempelstraße), 53113 Bonn, Phone: 01888-17-4695.

There the necessary formalities will be explained to you.

For further information, visit [www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

Number plates are assigned by the Ordnungs- und Straßenverkehrsamt of the City of Bonn, Stadthaus, Berliner Platz 2, Passage (Phone: (0228) 77-27 21 or 77-33 21).

## 2.9.4 Driving Licence

Driving Licences from other countries are valid for six months in Germany. The first step towards obtaining a German driving licence is to apply at a driving school (Fahrschule).

Valid licences from EU member states are valid in Germany as well. Holders of these licences may also obtain a German driving licence without taking a test. There is no time limit to apply.

The driving licence regulation specifies countries from which holders of a driving licence may obtain a German driving licence without having to take a test, within three years of arrival in Germany.

Driving licences from countries not on the "accepted" list are still valid for up to six months if the holder has been granted temporary residence. Application for a German licence must be made. A first aid course and an eye test are required, in addition to written and road tests. Driving lessons are not mandatory.

Members of the diplomatic corps and homologues: Special rules apply to members of foreign diplomatic corps, their homologues and families. Holders of a valid driving licence can obtain a German licence without taking a test. Application should be made within six months of arrival in Germany.

Please contact the Fahrerlaubnisbehörde of the City of Bonn, Stadthaus, Berliner Platz 2, Passage (Phone: 0228-77 2736) for further information and appointments.

## 2.9.5 Car Insurance

Third-party insurance is mandatory. Rates are based on the following factors:

Length of time the owner has held a driving licence

Owner's driving record

Power of the car

Region

Amount deductible

The German Motoring Association (ADAC) can provide further information about driving in Germany.

ADAC

Godesberger Allee 127

53175 Bonn

Phone: 01805 10 11 12

[www.adac.de](http://www.adac.de)

More information on car insurance and different kinds of other useful insurances may also be obtained from Bonn's consumer advice centre (*Verbraucherzentrale*).

[www.vz-nrw.de/bonn](http://www.vz-nrw.de/bonn)

## 2.9.6 Animals

If you wish to bring a cat or dog into Germany, the animals must be vaccinated for rabies 12 months to 30 days in advance. Proof of vaccination must be presented at the border. A maximum of three animals per owner are allowed. Dog owners should register to pay the dog tax (Hundesteuer) at the *Bürgerämter* (Civic Offices).

In conformity with the EU decision, horses must have a veterinary surgeon's certificate before being brought into Germany. The border authorities must be notified one day in advance. Horses are examined at the border and remain under veterinary observation for 14 days at the owner's stables.

## 2.9.7 Civic Offices

A number of services are provided by civic offices in the urban districts (*Bürgerämter*) or at the *Stadthaus* in downtown Bonn:

- identification cards, passports, children's identification cards
- notarisations
- applications for driving licences
- change of address on motor vehicle registration certificates
- issuing of international driving licences
- Führungszeugnisse (certificates of conduct)
- registration affairs
- disabled parking certificates, extension of identification cards
- Lohnsteuerkarten (wage tax cards), Hundesteuer (dog tax) registrations
- fishing licences

Opening hours and online services are to be found under [www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

## 2.9.8 Utilities

### *Stadtwerke Bonn - SWB*

The SWB provides the people in Bonn and the region with local public transportation and the supply of energy and water. They have been keeping people on the move and supplying them with electricity, natural gas, water and long-distance heating for more than 100 years.

2,500 highly-committed employees are dedicated to providing attractive local public transport, a future-oriented and cost-effective supply of energy and modern waste management systems.

When planning to move to Bonn, in order to have a good start regarding your utilities, visit [www.stadtwerke-bonn.de](http://www.stadtwerke-bonn.de) (English version). Helpful addresses and numbers for electricity, gas and water are to be found on these pages.

It is recommended that your energy, gas and water payments be automatically debited from your bank account.

The degree of hardness of Bonn's water ranges from 4.5° dH to 8.5° dH. It is ideal for drinking and food preparation.

Regarding your account you can contact the SWB customer service which is there for you concerning any question on your current energy tariff or statement of consumption. Kindly address your queries to the SWB-Hotline 01801-79 26 66, Monday to Friday 08:00 a.m. till 08:00 p.m. and on Saturday 08:00 a.m. till 04:00 p.m.

### 2.9.9 Telephone, Internet and Postal Services

In January 1995 three companies were formed to provide services formerly under one national umbrella: Deutsche Post AG provides mail services (letters and parcels); Deutsche Telekom AG handles telecommunications, including all pay phones; and Deutsche Postbank offers standard banking services. All three functions are still handled at the post office, marked by bright yellow signs.

[www.postbank.de](http://www.postbank.de)

[www.deutschepost.de](http://www.deutschepost.de)

[www.telekom.de](http://www.telekom.de).

Major Post Offices:

Münsterplatz 17, 53111 Bonn,

Koblenzer Str. 67, 53177 Bonn,

Kreuzstraße 22-24, 53225 Bonn,

Standard letter (Europe) EUR 0,55

Postcards EUR 0,45

Telephone:

You may order a *Privatanschluss* (private telephone line) at the T-com shops (Bonn city centre, Friedensplatz or Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Koblenzer Str. 48, or at the Deutsche Telekom headquarters, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee, central phone number: (freecall) 0800 330 1000

Or simply visit: [www.telekom.de](http://www.telekom.de)

You may take over a telephone line from a previous customer by an "*Auftrag für Übernahme eines Telefonanschlusses*" (a fee will be charged). Telephones may be purchased from Deutsche Telekom.

A booklet explaining telephone rates is available from Deutsche Telekom.

Under [www.billiger-telefonieren.de](http://www.billiger-telefonieren.de) you will find call-by-call numbers listing the current lowest prices for telephone calls in Germany and abroad (dial the indicated code followed by the complete area code plus number).

You may also choose another provider. Some may offer more attractive internet and call-by-call rates, especially if you are calling outside of Germany.

Having your telephone and internet connection installed may take a bit of time. Please note that someone will have to be at home for the phone installation.

Local calls: dial the number without the *Vorwahl* (area code)

Long-distance calls: When dialling a number within Germany, dial the area code (which begins with "0") + the number

International calls: dial the country code (beginning with "00") + area code (omitting the "0") + the number

Directory Assistance: 11 8 33  
National directory assistance: 11 8 80  
German directory assistance in English: 11 8 37  
International directory assistance: 11 8 34

### **2.9.10 Television and Radio**

Germany has many public radio and television networks and an increasing number of commercial stations. The public networks are financed largely by the audience, so anyone who owns a radio or television is obliged to pay a monthly fee to the *Gebühreneinzugszentrale* (GEZ). Subscribers should register with the GEZ, Postfach 10 80 25, 50656 Köln. The forms needed are available at banks and savings institutions or at the *Einwohnermeldeamt*. If you move away from Germany, don't forget to cancel your registration.

Those who enjoy diplomatic privileges based on the Vienna Agreement on diplomatic relations (18 April 1961) or corresponding legal provisions are exempt from these fees. If you are uncertain about your status, please enquire at the

Protocol Division/Bonn Office of the Federal Foreign Office (Außenstelle Protokoll Bonn),  
Adenauerallee 99-103 (entry via Tempelstraße),  
53113 Bonn,  
Phone: 01888 -17- 46 95.

Public television:

The three major stations - ARD, ZDF and WDR (regional) - can be received with a standard aerial.

Cable TV: An increasing number of channels - such as CNN, MTV, BBC World, NBC SuperChannel, RTBF (Belgium, in French), ARTE (French/German), 3 sat, euroNEWS, TV5, VOX can be received through 'ish'.

For further information call 0180 5 -66 31 00.

Pay TV, such as Premiere (the most common pay TV channel), is also available.

Satellite:

About 100 international programmes can be received directly by satellite. The magazine TeleSatellite lists all available programmes.

Please note that it will require the landlord's consent if you wish to install a satellite dish and receiver. All costs of installation must be borne by the tenant.

Also, you will need a digital or HDTV receiver as of the end of April of 2012 as there will no longer be any analog broadcasting via Astra satellite then.

Internet TV is available via set top box (offered by Deutsche Telekom and Vodafone, for instance) or via your browser.

## **Annex**

### **Living in Germany – Some Tips and Hints**

#### **Weights and Measures**

As in all of continental Europe, the metric system is used in Germany. Distances are measured in millimetres (mm), centimetres (cm), metres (m), and kilometres (km). Liquids are measured in litres (l). Milligrams (mg), grams (g), kilograms (kg) and tonnes (t) are the units generally used to measure weights. Metric measurements are also used with respect to cooking ingredients and a person's body weight. Temperatures are always measured in degrees centigrade.

Clothing sizes for women range from 34 to 62; suits, jackets and coats for men come in sizes 44 to 68. Shirt sizes equal collar width in centimetres (37 - 48). Sizes of children's clothing (56 - 176) correspond to body height in centimetres. Women's shoes start at size 35 with 43 usually being the largest size found in general shops. Men's shoe sizes range from 39 – 48. The international sizes XS - XXL, however, are becoming more and more common. There are several shops for over-sized clothes.

#### **Public Holidays**

Official holidays in North Rhine-Westphalia are as follows:

New Year's Day	1 January - Neujahr
Good Friday	Karfreitag
Easter Monday	Ostermontag
Labor Day	1 May - Tag der Arbeit
Ascension Day	Christi Himmelfahrt
Pentecost Monday	Pfingstmontag
Corpus Christi	Fronleichnam
German Unity Day	3 October – Tag der Deutschen Einheit
All Saints' Day	1 November - Allerheiligen
Christmas	25 and 26 December - Weihnachten

Please note that shops are closed during public holidays!

#### **School Vacation**

Easter: Two weeks

Pentecost: One day (Tuesday after Pentecost Monday)

Summer: Six to six and a half weeks (dates change regularly)

Autumn: Two weeks

Christmas: Two weeks

#### **Basic Shopping Information**

Shop opening hours are generally from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. – although some open later and may stay open until 8 p.m. Small shops may be closed for two hours at lunch time. Most supermarkets open earlier and stay open until 8 or even 10 p.m.

On Sundays and on German public holidays shops are closed. You will find a few essentials at gas stations. Some bakeries, flower shops and kiosks are open on Sunday mornings as well. Bakeries and hair dressers may be closed on Mondays.

Many smaller stores do not accept regular credit (or debit) cards, but EC cards or cash only. Shopping bags are not free in most stores, especially supermarkets. You will need a 1 Euro coin to use trolleys and shopping carts in the supermarket.

### **More Information**

For online information for expatriates in Germany, visit:

[www.howtoGermany.com](http://www.howtoGermany.com)

[www.expatica.com](http://www.expatica.com)

Information and answers to many FAQ are provided by the Federal Foreign Office under:

[www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

## Living in Bonn – Some Tips and Hints

### More Information and Activities for Newcomers

As a host city, Bonn does not only offer a broad spectrum of leisure and recreational activities, but has also established a platform for newcomers, so that they may become acquainted with what is on offer in Bonn and feel a little more at home away from home. Regular BonnExpat evenings and informal get-togethers will help new arrivals to receive information first-hand and to become socially integrated more easily. For more details and upcoming events, visit [www.bonnexpat.com](http://www.bonnexpat.com). Here you will also find information on Bonn and the region, ranging from finding the right place to eat to meeting like-minded people or getting around in Bonn.

Local news, more links and many suggestions on what to do and where to go in Bonn can be found under:

[www.english-network.de](http://www.english-network.de)

General information about Bonn and local city services, facilities and institutions (including libraries and pools, for instance) is available under:

[www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de)

Tourist attractions and events are also listed under:

Tourismus & Congress GmbH  
Region Bonn / Rhein-Sieg / Ahrweiler

[www.bonn-region.de](http://www.bonn-region.de)

Tickets for concerts and all kinds of other local events may be purchased at different shops in downtown Bonn or under [www.bonnticket.de](http://www.bonnticket.de)

### Local Clubs and Societies

A great variety of clubs and societies in Bonn constantly welcome new members. There are clubs to cater for all ages, interests and hobbies, including numerous sports clubs and choral societies: Women's groups, youth clubs, carnival and cultural associations, as well as gatherings of marksmen, stamp collectors and pet owners. The meetings provide an opportunity for pursuing common interests and social activity.

International service clubs such as Rotary, Lion's and ZONTA or SOROPTIMISTS have branches in Bonn. If you would like further information about these clubs or an invitation, please contact: Dr. Maria Hohn-Berghorn, phone: (0228) 77 20 22, Fax: (0228) 77 53 41, e-Mail: [international@bonn.de](mailto:international@bonn.de).

Many countries have societies to promote their national culture or friendship with Germany. A list of inter- or bi-national societies and friendship clubs, as complete as we could make it, can be found under [www.bonn.de / internationales / internationales Profil / Laendergesellschaften](http://www.bonn.de/internationales/internationales_Profil/Laendergesellschaften).

Bonn also has a bicycle club which offers a bicycle school for all those who are not so familiar with bicycling, for instance. To obtain more information, you may visit the club online under

[www.adfc-bonn.de](http://www.adfc-bonn.de)

## **Open-Air Markets and Flea Markets**

There are a few open-air markets; these are ideal to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. The one on the Market Square is open every day (except Sunday), whereas the Bad Godesberg market is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings only.

During the summer months there is a flea market in the Rheinaue Park on the third Saturday of the month (from April to October). This is one of the biggest of its kind in Germany and you can find a huge variety of items including some furniture and household goods on sale there.

## **Children in Bonn – Some Suggested Weekend Activities**

Apart from paying a visit to the many beautiful old, traditional towns or to the castles located in the area and seeing the spectacular cathedrals in Cologne and Aachen, or enjoying some of the highlights, activities and events listed above, your family – and especially your children - will enjoy a visit to:

Phantasialand in Brühl – a large leisure and adventure park: [www.phantasialand.de](http://www.phantasialand.de)

Warner Brothers Movie World Bottrop-Kirchhellen: [www.movieworld.de](http://www.movieworld.de)

Sommerrodelbahn Altenahr – summer toboggan run located at about a 25-minute drive from Bonn – [www.sommerrodelbahn-altenahr.de](http://www.sommerrodelbahn-altenahr.de)

Volcano route and volcano museum in the Eifel region: [www.lava-dome.de](http://www.lava-dome.de)

Sea Life Königswinter: [www.sealifeeurope.com](http://www.sealifeeurope.com)

Odysseum adventure museum in Cologne: [www.odysseum.de](http://www.odysseum.de)

Chocolate museum in Cologne: [www.schokoladenmuseum.de](http://www.schokoladenmuseum.de)

German Sports and Olympic Museum Cologne: [www.sportmuseum.de](http://www.sportmuseum.de)

Moreover, there are plenty of indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor climbing walls and indoor and outdoor playgrounds to be found in the region.

Or simply enjoy a boat ride on the Rhine river.

So, welcome to Bonn!

Discover our beautiful city and feel at home in an attractive location on the Rhine!

## **Imprint**

**This brochure is published by the**

**International Affairs and Protocol Department of the City of Bonn**

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Last update: August 2012