

Bochum -- City Of Coal Mining

Bochum as city is nearly 700 years old, though it was founded (or 'born,' as I like to say :-)) a longer time ago, in the year 890. It is located in the [Ruhrgebiet](#), in the state of [North Rhine-Westphalia \(Nordrhein-Westfalen\)](#).

Most appealing and crucial period for the city was the age of industrialization when its economic boom began with the discovery and mining of coal. There are innumerable monuments defining this period of the city's history.

For example, the Westphalian Industrial Museum, where the 200 year history of industrialization is brought to life. The Century Hall (*Jahrhunderthalle*) also needs to be mentioned in this case; an extraordinary hall which was built in 1902. It is presently in use for exhibitions and cultural and sporting events. And the Rheinisch Industrial Museum, which forms a compilation of museums that are exceptional in Europe.

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Oops, almost forgot... The German Mining Museum is also worth visiting since it provides information about the most important history part of the city — coal mining.

You might also get a chance to see one of the Hannover Colliery which contains a series of exhibits on the development of the industrial Ruhr area. Here, kids will also find some relevance in the form of Knirps "children's mine" where they can learn about mining through interactive exhibits.

If you love to see churches, no need to take tensions as here you will find the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. This particular hall church was constructed in the Westphalian Gothic style. It

was initially built through the time of Emperor Charlemagne between 785 and 800 (yup, even before this city was actually 'born'). Its 68 meter towering steeple is the city's most prominent milestone. You'll get to see countless of fascinating works of art inside the church.

The church of St. Vincent is an example of Ottonian architecture which was built in Romanesque style. Later, it turned into a Gothic edifice.

Another attraction in this city is the Blankenstein Castle which was built in the 13th century by Count Adolf I of Mark.

Bochum possesses its own brewery and celebrates many festivals. *Ruhr Triennale* festival is really a delight to visitors as this festival started with the idea of combining the industrial heritage of the Ruhr region with an arts festival. This unique mixture of *Ruhr Triennale* has become famous throughout Germany and beyond. :-)