

**FREUDE.
JOY.
JOIE.
BONN.**

Bonn

Federal City and Centre of International Cooperation





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Foreword

“Freude.Joy.Joie.Bonn” –

Bonn’s logo says everything about the city and is based on Friedrich Schiller’s “Ode to Joy”, made immortal by our most famous son, Ludwig van Beethoven, in the final choral movement of his 9th Symphony. “All men shall be brothers” stands for freedom and peaceful coexistence in the world, values that are also associated with Bonn. The city is the cradle of the most successful democracy on German soil and its name is synonymous with decades of peace in Europe since the middle of the last century. It was no coincidence that the Council of Europe and European Community, the predecessor of today’s European Union (EU), chose the instrumental version of the “Ode to Joy”, based on the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, as the European Anthem. Bonn also stands for the internationality and cosmopolitanism developed in the city since becoming the seat of the Federal Government in 1949.

In the meantime, Bonn has gained a sound reputation as Germany’s United Nations City hosting approximately twenty UN agencies. Their efforts are geared towards advancing sustainability and securing the future of our planet. This will again become clear in November 2017, when 20,000 participants are expected to attend the World Climate Summit in Bonn.

A new facet of Bonn’s profile is the strong presence of authorities dealing with cyber security in one form or another – another topical issue these days.

We invite you to find out more about Bonn. And we will continue to play a role in the annual celebrations for the Day of German Unity.

In 2011, Bonn hosted the celebrations for the Day of German Unity and the North Rhine-Westphalia Day: The festivities for Germany’s national day wonderfully presented Bonn in all of its facets – small, yet grand, and local, yet cosmopolitan. We will continue to play a role in the annual celebrations for the Day of German Unity in the future



to show you that Bonn’s 320,000 inhabitants may make it a comparatively small town, but it is far from being small-town. On the contrary, Bonn is the city of tomorrow, where the United Nations, as well as science and business, explore the issues that will affect humankind in the future.

Bonn’s logo, “Freude.Joy.Joie.Bonn.”, incidentally also stands for the cheerful Rhenish way of life, our joie de vivre or Lebensfreude as we call it. Come and experience it yourself: Sit in our cafés and beer gardens, go jogging or cycling along the Rhine, run through the forests, stroll down the shopping streets and alleys. View the UN and Post Towers, Godesburg Castle and the scenic Siebengebirge, the gateway to the romantic Rhine. Go for a walk in the Südstadt quarter or the sweeping green of Freizeitpark Rheinaue (Rheinaue Leisure Park) and the Bundesviertel (Federal District) – in a nutshell: enjoy how wonderful it is in Bonn, how lively and cheerful this city is, and how open-minded and diverse its people are.

Ashok Sridharan
Mayor of Bonn

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashok Sridharan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

98% of Bonn’s citizens love their city. The cultural offer plays a major role in this affection according to an Infas study among people living in Bonn.

In his 2013 review of the city for “Frankfurter Allgemeine” newspaper the author Helmut Bänder fittingly describes Bonn as follows:

“Those who are looking for international working flair paired with an extensive leisure and cultural offer, and can handle a dash of Rhenish cheerfulness, will feel at home in Bonn.”

“Those who prefer the anonymity of big city life and consider telling jokes a waste of time will feel out of place.”



A conference at the World Conference Center Bonn, the former plenary chamber of the Bundestag

Bonn – a New Profile

Why was a new profile needed for Bonn in the first place? Berlin had become the German capital in 1990 as one of the stipulations of the Unification Treaty, which also stated that „the seat of parliament and government shall be decided upon after the establishment of German unity.“ A fierce debate ensued on which political functions should be moved. When, on 20 June 1991, the Bundestag (the lower house of the German Parliament) decided to move its seat and the core functions of government to Berlin, the situation was as follows: Bonn as a city had been defined by politics for over four decades and, although it had used the slogan “Bonn is more” for many years, this “more” had long since disappeared behind the policymaking headlines that it produced on a daily basis.

In June 1991 the world seemed to stand still for Bonn. What did the Bundestag mean by “core functions of government”? The uncertainty surrounding the future of Bonn was overwhelming; after all, a study had shown that over 30,000 jobs were connected to the city’s role as “Federal Capital” – 30,000 of 134,000 – the consequences for the city were potentially devastating.

However, Bonn’s citizens would not be true natives of the Rhineland if they did not have faith in one of the articles of the Rhenish Carnival’s “Constitution”: “Et hätt noch immer jot jejange”, which roughly translates as “it always ends well”.

The Bundestag’s decision in 1991 therefore represented the arrival of a major challenge for Bonn and its citizens, but one that they would not succumb to: The time had come to develop a new profile for this city that had for so long been the synonym for German politics.

A few weeks after the Bundestag had passed its resolution, the regional powers from Bonn, the Rhein-Sieg District and the Ahrweiler District presented the “Five-Pillar Model”, a master plan for the future development of Bonn and the region. The vision was based on Bonn as a Federal City; as a centre of European and international cooperation; as a city of science and research; as a city with a future-oriented economic structure and as a cultural centre.

The foundations for structural change were solid: The Berlin/Bonn Act of 1994 regulated the division of labour between the Federal Capital of Berlin and the Federal City of Bonn. The compensation agreement, which provided 1.43 billion euros, offered the opportunity to implement concrete projects, set structural change in motion and create new jobs.

In any case, to cut a long story short, the path that was taken based on a vision over a quarter of a century ago has proven to be the right one.



The United Nations flag in front of the UN Tower



The opening of the UN Campus in 2006

Bonn's New Profile – an Overview

Bonn: The Federal City

The Berlin/Bonn Act that was passed on 26 April 1994 explicitly guarantees the preservation of Bonn as a political centre and stipulates the fair division of labour between Berlin and Bonn; which is why six Federal Ministries have their primary seat on the Rhine. They represent the policy areas determined in the act: education and science, culture, research and technology, telecommunications, environment and health, food, agriculture and forestry, development policy and defence. All other ministries maintain their secondary seat on the Rhine. Over twenty federal agencies, including the Federal Cartel Office (Bundeskartellamt) and Federal Audit Office (Bundesrechnungshof), have moved to Bonn. The city is therefore the second political centre of the Federal Republic of Germany, a country characterized by highly federal structures as the name implies, and this status is expressed by its designation as a “Federal City”, a term originally coined in Switzerland.

Bonn: International City – Germany's United Nations City

As Germany's United Nations city Bonn fulfils tasks of national interest. The idea to develop Bonn into a centre of international cooperation was already mentioned in the resolution passed by the Bundestag in 1991. The city has since attracted numerous international organizations, that form a powerful cluster with the roughly 150 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) based in Bonn.

The greatest international success is however the establishment of United Nations organizations and institutions such as the Climate Secretariat of the United Nations (UNFCCC). The international activities of the United Nations in Bonn focus on climate and environmental issues, volunteer programmes, development cooperation and disaster risk reduction. The shared motto of the growing United Nations family in Bonn is “The UN in Bonn – working towards sustainable development worldwide”. The UN Campus has been the nucleus of international Bonn since the summer of 2006. The former high-rise buildings of the Bundestag in Bonn are now occupied by UN organizations and institutions.

Next door is the World Conference Center Bonn built around the old plenary chamber of the Bundestag, which has just been extended to also accommodate large conferences according to UN standards. During the past years, Bonn has time and again shown that it is also a suitable venue for major conferences, as is documented by its hosting of two World Climate Summits, the International Conference on Freshwater, the United Nations Talks on Afghanistan, the International Conference for Renewable Energies and the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.



Graduates from the University of Bonn



The caesar Foundation

In November of 2017, Bonn will host the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Up to 20,000 participants are expected to come to Bonn, host city of the headquarters of UNFCCC Secretariat on the banks of the Rhine. For the City of Bonn, this will be another fine opportunity to demonstrate its capabilities as an attractive host to large international conferences.

DZNE is a new research institute that belongs to the Helmholtz Association of German research centers. Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel inaugurated the new building on Bonn's Venusberg in March 2017. Roughly 500 DZNE staff will conduct research on these premises. DZNE is the only research institute in Germany dedicated to dementia and all its facets. It is the first of a total of six German centers for health research, which have been established by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to combat the most important widespread diseases. Read more: www.dzne.de

Bonn: Region of Science and Research

Bonn lies embedded in the ABC Region, a triangle of cities formed by Aachen, Bonn and Cologne, with the greatest density of research and technology institutions in Europe, and has acquired an international reputation as a hub of science. Its nucleus is the University of Bonn (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität), which was founded in 1818 and counts roughly 35,000 students today. During the past years, it has been complemented by the arrival and development of new research institutions and universities of applied science. Scientific highlights in the region include the Max Planck Institute's "Center of Advanced European Studies and Research" (caesar), which conducts research on neurosciences, cell biology and biophysics with a focus on neurons and neural networks; and LIFE&BRAIN, a centre of excellence in the field of translational biomedicine. Bonn is also home to a host of other leading German organizations that foster and promote science.

Some Bonn-based companies have already been around for generations and their products are known around the world, with customers literally having heard of or acquired a taste for them; they include HARIBO and Verpoorten, or the world-famous organ builders Klais, to name but a few.





Deutsche Post DHL



Deutsche Telekom



Beethoven's birthplace

Bonn: Business Hub

The service sector plays an ever-growing role in Bonn's economy, with the focus shifting from public to private services. Global companies, such as Deutsche Post DHL Group and Deutsche Telekom with its numerous subsidiaries have opted to set up their corporate headquarters in Bonn. The IT sector alone employs about 9,700 people in Bonn. The conference industry also plays an important role and will receive a further boost with the opening of the extension of the World Conference Center Bonn in early 2015. According to a survey by the European Commission, Bonn is one of Europe's centres of excellence for information and communication technology.

Bonn: City of Culture

As the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven, Bonn places a great emphasis on music. The annual Beethoven Festival (Beethovenfest) promotes the works of the composer, and the preparations are already underway for the Beethoven Year in 2020, with celebrations to mark the composer's 250th birthday. The art and culture of the Museum Mile is a magnet for the crowd: the Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany), the Kunstmuseum Bonn (Bonn Museum of Modern Art), the Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (German National Museum of Contemporary History), the Zoologische Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig) and the Deutsches Museum Bonn (German Museum Bonn) offer attractions that draw millions of visitors every year.

Ludwig van Beethoven's paternal ancestors came from what is today Flemish Brabant in Belgium. In 1733 his grandfather was appointed bass singer at the electoral court in Bonn. His father also showed musical talent and joined the court's musical ensemble in 1756. Ludwig van Beethoven was baptized on 17 December 1770 and was presumably born a day earlier in the family's home at Bonngasse 515 (today no. 20). The piano-playing Wunderkind performed in public for the first time at the age of seven. His first appointment came in 1784, as the court's second organist in Bonn.

In late 1786, Beethoven travelled to Vienna to study under Mozart; however, although it is likely they met, there is no documentation of any encounters. On his way home to Bonn, he was greeted with the sad news that his mother was on her deathbed. She died in 1787 and lies buried in the Alter Friedhof (Old Cemetery) in Bonn. In 1792 Beethoven met Joseph Haydn, who had stopped in Bonn on his way back from England, and they agreed that Beethoven would travel to Vienna a second time to continue his musical education and become Haydn's student.

In 1794, French troops occupied the Rhineland and dissolved the Electorate of Cologne. The Elector fled Bonn leaving Beethoven without a position to return to; his temporary educational stay in Vienna had become a permanent move. Ludwig van Beethoven would never see his hometown of Bonn again and died on 26 March 1827 in Vienna, where he rests in the Zentralfriedhof (Central Cemetery).



The constituent meeting of the Bundesarat



A ceremony of the Parlamentarischer Rat

Bonn: City of the German Constitution

After the fall of Nazi Dictatorship, the Western Allies empowered the Parlamentarischer Rat (Parliamentary Council) to draft a new, democratic constitution. The inaugural session of the constituent assembly was held on 1 September 1948 in the atrium of Museum Koenig. On 23 May 1949, the Basic Law of the new German state is promulgated and the Federal Republic of Germany is founded in Bonn. Just under a fortnight earlier, on 10 May 1949, a very narrow vote of the Parlamentarischer Rat had seen Bonn edge Frankfurt as the provisional capital of the new republic. The name Bonn will therefore forever be etched in the German Constitution and associated with the return of Germany to the community of democratic states.

It was also a difficult start in Bonn: Ministries moved into barracks that had survived the bombing and ministers housed in “furnished dwellings” or railway carriages. The rebuilding of the country after the Second World War was accompanied by the development of Bonn as its capital. However this only occurred hesitantly and tentatively at first; after all, Bonn was only regarded as the provisional capital. It was not until the early 1970s that a speech by the then Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt gave the signal to make Bonn “Germany’s calling card”. By that time Bonn had already merged with Bad Godesberg, Beuel and Duisdorf, and was a city of 285,000 inhabitants.

Despite many new buildings for various ministries and government agencies, Bonn remained a “modest capital” throughout, a term used with affection by some and contempt by others. It was a seat of government in the best sense of federalism: one that did not dominate any other German city or region and thus definitely made a significant contribution to the development of the country.

Bonn became a synonym for the most successful democracy on German soil and stood for a very successful economic development.

After the end of the Second World War it quickly became clear that the victorious Allied powers would not be able to agree on a common policy for Germany. In June 1948 the Western Allies therefore presented the London recommendations, titled the “Frankfurt Documents”, to the Prime Ministers of the Western States of Germany, paving the way for the founding of a West German state.

On 1 September 1948, 65 men and women convened as the Parlamentarischer Rat in Bonn. Behind them lay the failure of the Weimar Republic and the Nazi reign of terror. Many questions had to be answered before the new Basic Law could be signed on 23 May 1949, going down in history as the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Source and further information available at www.bpb.de



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Federal Ministry of Education and Research

The Federal City of Bonn – Germany’s Second Political Centre

The term “Federal City” was adopted from Switzerland in the early 1990s. It describes the role of Bonn as the second political centre of the Federal Republic of Germany and underlines the country’s highly federalist character. The intensive discussion on the seat of government that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 culminated in a passionate debate on the issue in the Bundestag on 20 June 1991. The debate quickly made it clear that it would not be a matter of Bonn or Berlin, but rather Berlin and Bonn, and the decision to move the seat of parliament and part of the government from the Rhine to the Spree was only passed with a slim majority.

The Bonn/Berlin decision, or Capital Decision as it is known, was passed in 1991 and laid the foundations for Bonn’s future role, which would be described more precisely in the Berlin/Bonn Act of 1994. The law stipulates a fair division of labour between the Federal Capital of Berlin and Federal City of Bonn. In addition, it states which policy areas should remain in Bonn:

- ✦ Education, science, culture, research and technology, telecommunications
- ✦ Environment and health
- ✦ Nutrition, agriculture and forestry
- ✦ Development policy, national, international and supranational institutions
- ✦ Defence

The description of policy areas ensured that the topics would be dealt with in Bonn regardless of the ministry under whose responsibility they fell and where it had its primary seat. The immediate consequence of the resolution adopted by the Bundestag was that the following ministries (present-day names) would maintain their primary seat in Bonn:

- ✦ Federal Ministry of Defence
- ✦ Federal Ministry of Health
- ✦ Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- ✦ Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- ✦ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- ✦ Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

All other ministries have their secondary seat in Bonn.

The Federal Foreign Office in Bonn – Point of contact for international organizations in Germany

The Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) is the point of contact for international organizations in the United Nations city of Bonn. The primary responsibility of its Bonn office is the political coordination of matters concerning the UN Campus in Bonn. A further area of focus is looking after the local staff of the roughly 20 UN organizations and countless other international organizations currently based in Germany.



Villa Hammerschmidt, the official residence of the Federal President in Bonn

The Federal President also has an official residence in Bonn, Villa Hammerschmidt; as does the Federal Chancellor, who has her office at Palais Schaumburg.

Over 20 higher agencies and supreme federal authorities were moved to Bonn to strengthen the policy areas assigned to the city as part of the Berlin/Bonn Act. They include the Federal Audit Office (Bundesrechnungshof), the Federal Cartel Office (Bundeskartellamt), the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte) and the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht – BaFin).

The Berlin/Bonn Act has proven itself over the time that it has been in effect; however, it has time and again been the subject of discussion. Contrary to what was envisaged by the act, the majority of the jobs in the ministries has since been moved to the Spree; and yet the division of the functions decided on by the Bundestag in 1991 and regulated by the act of 1994 remains the favourable solution. The annual costs (EUR 5 million in 2015 with a decreasing tendency) are nowhere near the amount that would be required if the estimated multi-billion euro move of the entire government was to be realized.

The term “Federal City of Bonn” is not just something that one sees on road signs at the city limits; it also appears in official statements and documents, and carries the force of law. Its first mention is in the Berlin/Bonn Act of 1994 in the context of government functions “in the Federal Capital of Berlin and the Federal City of Bonn” and the “assurance of a permanent and fair division of labour between the Federal Capital of Berlin and the Federal City of Bonn”.

Berlin had already been determined as the German capital in the Unification Treaty of 1990; but how should Bonn, the second political centre of the Federal Republic, be referred to? A glance across the border to Switzerland provided the answer: In 1848 Berne was declared “Federal City”. The term is used to describe the city’s role as the “presiding canton of Switzerland” and the first among a confederacy of very independent cantons. “Federal City” therefore underlines the highly federal character of a country in which no city dominates another. The term was therefore considered the best way to express the intention of two political centres in a federal state. Its use became increasingly common until it finally found its way into the Berlin/Bonn Act in 1994 making it official.



United Nations Climate Change Secretariat



The UN Tower and Post Tower

International Bonn: Shaping a Sustainable Future

Since the middle of the nineties, Bonn has successfully shaped a new profile as Germany's United Nations City and a centre of international dialogue on key issues of the future. The foundations for Bonn's international profile of today were laid in the Berlin/Bonn Act, in which the establishment of Bonn as a centre of development policy and hub of national, international and supranational institutions is described as a principal objective. The Bonn UN Campus gives visible testimony to the achievement of this goal. Bonn's development as Germany's United Nations City began in June 1996. Ten years later, in July 2006, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel handed over the new UN Campus in Bonn to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Another extension building for 350 staff is currently under construction. The landmark former office building of the Bundestag (Abgeordnetenhaus), known as "Langer Eugen" (Tall Eugene, nicknamed after Eugen Gerstenmaier, the longest-serving President of the Bundestag), is home to all but one of the UN organizations in Bonn; the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) resides in the adjacent older parliamentary office building (Altes Abgeordnetenhaus), which was rebuilt as part of a model project in eco-friendly construction. The common headline "United Nations in Bonn – Shaping a Sustainable Future" unites the UN organizations in the city under an umbrella topic.

The UN Campus provides them with ideal working conditions and an environment rich in synergies. The proximity to the World Conference Center Bonn and to many other important contacts and partners offers particular advantages. United Nations organizations and institutions, federal ministries and agencies, about 150 non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions and its global players from the business world characterize Bonn as a centre of international business and cooperation. The city is increasingly developing into the nucleus of a network whose actors focus on the issues of sustainable and humane development. Sustainability as an area of synergy is reinforced by a wide variety of international partners from the worlds of politics, business, science and culture, as well as numerous NGOs. The latter include not only German organizations involved in international issues and activities, but also about a dozen international non-governmental organizations that have set up their headquarters in Bonn since 1990.

A selection of international non-governmental organizations in Bonn:

- 4C Association (sustainability in the coffee sector)
- EADI – European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (umbrella organization of European development institutes)
- Fairtrade International (FLO) – Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International
- FLO-CERT (producer certification and trade audits)



Flags of United Nations member states

- ✦ FSC – Forest Stewardship Council Germany (certification of forests)
- ✦ ICLEI – International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (Local Governments for Sustainability)
- ✦ IFOAM – International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (international umbrella organization for the organic agriculture movement)
- ✦ IPC – International Paralympic Committee
- ✦ WWEA – World Wind Energy Association (umbrella organization representing the wind power sector worldwide)

Bonn has already proven itself and showcased its experience as a conference venue on many occasions. Its most notable achievements here include the hosting of United Nations Conferences of the Parties, such as the World Climate Summits in 1999 and 2001, the United Nations Talks on Afghanistan in 2001, 2002 and 2011, the International Conference on Freshwater in 2001, the International Conference for Renewable Energies in 2004, the International Conference on Early Warning in 2006, the 9th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2008 and the United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) Conference in September 2011.

The standing of Germany's centre for international cooperation was enhanced further by the relocation of important development policy organizations, such as the German Foundation for International Development

(Deutsche Stiftung für Entwicklung – DSE), the German Development Service (Deutsche Entwicklungsdienst – DED) and the German Institute for Development Policy (Deutsche Institut für Entwicklung – DIE) to Bonn.

In addition, Bonn also became the principal seat of the newly founded German Society for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ). Developmental and environmental policy working groups and trade associations also entertain global contacts on environmental issues and development cooperation.

Moreover, the city also hosts scientific and research institutions, including organizations that arrange extensive international exchange programmes, such as the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG), the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz – HRK), the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) and the Alexander- von-Humboldt Foundation (Alexander von-Humboldt-Stiftung – AvH).

The Compensation Agreement also strengthened the scientific field by adding international accents, which resulted in the creation of the Centre of Development Research (Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung – ZEF) and the Centre of European Integration Studies (Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung – ZEI) at the University of Bonn. ZEF in particular entertains very close ties to organizations active in development policy and thus



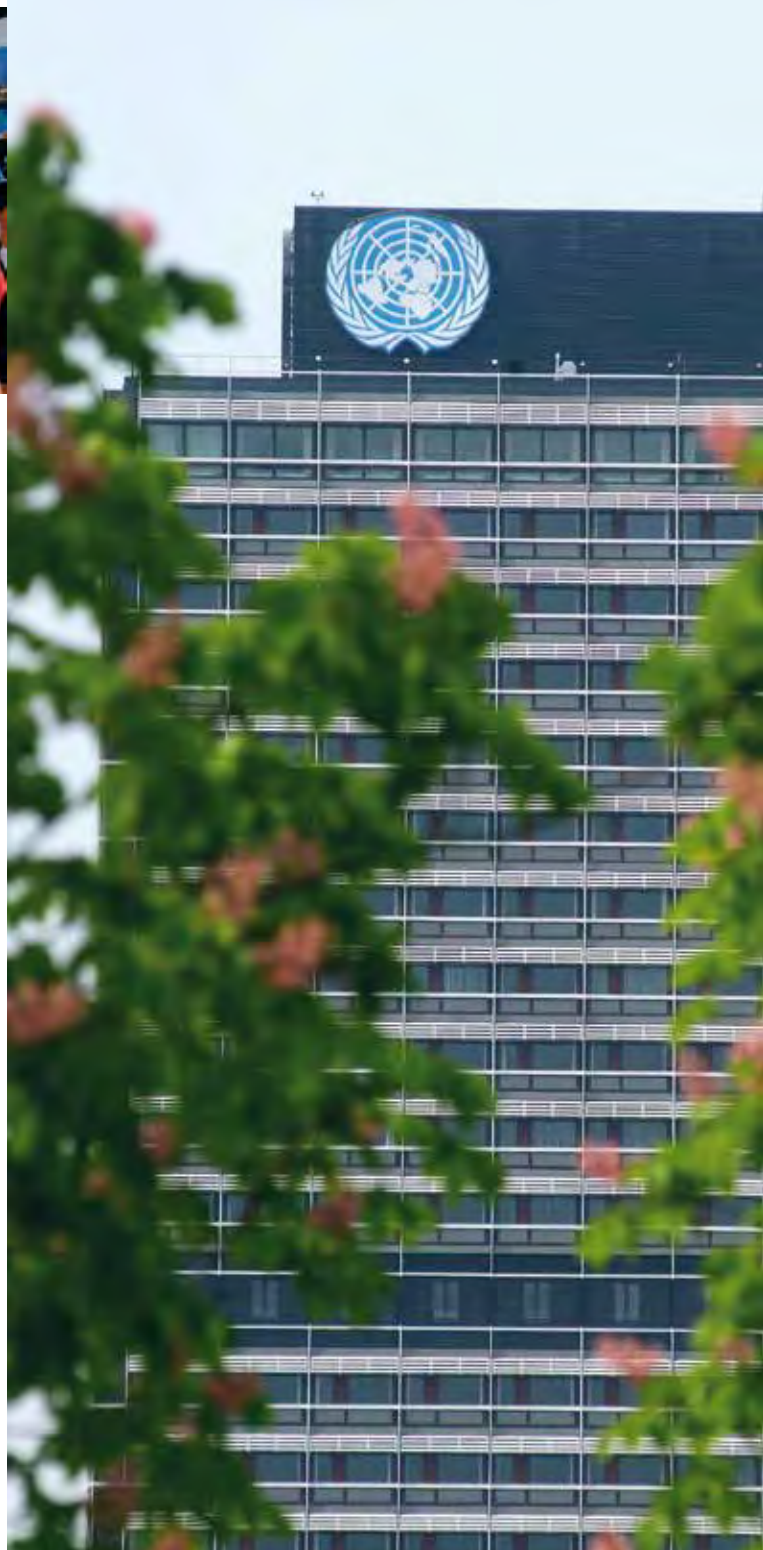
Bonn International

builds a bridge between science and practice. The new IRENA Innovation and Technology Center (IITC), of the International Renewable Energy Agency also fits perfectly into this internationally-oriented scientific profile.

In 2014, the Federal City of Bonn and the University of Bonn signed a cooperation agreement to improve networking between the scientific community and international institutions. The aim of the agreed cooperation is to establish and expand networks and cooperation on relevant topics. In addition, it should result in the organization of events that bring together scientific institutions, international organizations, national institutions, cultural partners, the media and other relevant actors.

Bonn as a centre of international cooperation and platform of international dialogue is therefore more than an empty cliché. The city has seized its opportunity to become the German centre of excellence for issues that will determine our global future and has assembled a wide range of international partners to realize this goal.

right: The UN Tower





The UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2008



The World Conference Center Bonn

UN Organizations based in Bonn

- ✦ United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV)
- ✦ Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ✦ Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- ✦ Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS)
- ✦ Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (UNEP/AEWA)
- ✦ Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (UNEP/ASCOBANS)
- ✦ Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of the Populations of European Bats (UNEP/EUROBATS)
- ✦ United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC)
- ✦ UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC)
- ✦ World Health Organization, European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO/ECEH)
- ✦ United Nations University, Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE)
- ✦ United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
- ✦ United Nations University, Vice Rectorate in Europe - Sustainable Cycles Programme (UNU-ViE SCYCLE)
- ✦ Secretariat of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Bonn Office (UNISDR)



The World Conference Center Bonn with the former plenary chamber of the Bundestag



- 🌐 United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)
- 🌐 Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- 🌐 UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO)
- 🌐 UN SDG Action Campaign - Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign
- 🌐 UNSSC - UN System Staff College Knowledge Centre of Sustainable Development

60th Anniversary of the European Commission in Bonn - Over sixty years of European Communication

The EU is also represented in the Federal City of Bonn. In 2014, the Regional Office of the European Commission in Bonn celebrated its 60th anniversary. When it opened in 1954 it was the first representation of the still young community of European states.

The office functions as the link between the European Commission in Brussels and the people on the Rhine, Main and Saar. In addition, its representatives nurture dialogue with the general public, media and politics.

Answers from the EU are however not only available in Bonn; the European Commission has set up a number of local information and advice centres in Germany to spare those who seek advice the ordeal of travelling long distances.

Source and further information available at <http://ec.europa.eu>



German National Museum of Contemporary History

Experience Democracy

Bonn offers many places and opportunities to experience post-war German history and events. A selection of the sites on the Path of Democracy is provided on the following pages.

Weg der Demokratie

The “Weg der Demokratie” (Path of Democracy) consists of display boards with text and photos located at places of contemporary historical interest in the former government district of Bonn now known as the Bundesviertel. The tour starts at the Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (German National Museum of Contemporary History) and takes about 90 to 120 minutes, leading past 12 of the 18 sites (six of them are located slightly outside the Bundesviertel). In addition, other historical buildings bear wall plaques with short texts indicating their past political significance. The Path of Democracy is a project of the German National Museum of Contemporary History and the Federal City of Bonn.

Information on the “Path of Democracy” and guided tours: www.wegderdemokratie.de

Bonn Information
Windeckstrasse 1 / Am Münsterplatz, 53111 Bonn

Guide service:
Tel.: +49 228 775001
e-mail: bonntouren@bonn.de



The Path of Democracy



The German National Museum of Contemporary History



Villa Hammerschmidt



Open Day

German National Museum of Contemporary History

The Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (German National Museum of Contemporary History) presents the almost seven decades of history since 1945 in its own vivid manner. The museum's permanent exhibition showcases political, economic and social history, as well as trends and everyday living conditions. Its roughly 7,000 exhibits include objects, documents, photos and media, and are displayed in scenes and ensembles. The range of items on display encompasses everything from original furniture in the first Bundestag, parts of a Soviet tank and an original cinema from the 1950s to a hippie van, Erich Honecker's arrest warrant and the hat of the first "King of Marksman" (Schützenkönig) in Paderborn of Turkish origin. The first government Mercedes of Konrad Adenauer and the Chancellor's railway saloon car already greet visitors and set them in the right mood at the entrance from the museum's metro station (Heussallee/Museumsmeile). A Roman cellar on the basement floor offers a glimpse into an ancient world. The museum garden shows the evolution from post-war allotment garden to modern-day park. The permanent exhibition will remain closed until December 2017. Varying temporary exhibitions will be on display.

Haus der Geschichte, Museumsmeile
Free admission
Willy-Brandt-Allee 14, 53113 Bonn
Tel.: + 49 228 9165 0
e-mail: post@hdg.de, www.hdg.de

Villa Hammerschmidt

After surviving the Second World War undamaged, Villa Hammerschmidt was commandeered by the Allied occupying powers in 1945. In 1950, the Federal Republic of Germany acquired the property, which consisted of the villa, the neighbouring buildings and the park, from the heirs of Rudolf Hammerschmidt. The Bundestag decided to make Villa Hammerschmidt the official residence of the German Head of State. The first President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Theodor Heuss, moved into the villa at the end of 1950. The first Presidential New Year's Reception was held at Villa Hammerschmidt on 4 January 1951. Heuss had the villa renovated from top to bottom, converting the ground floor into representational rooms and the upper floor into private quarters. The first occupant of the villa, President Theodor Heuss, was followed by the Federal Presidents Heinrich Lübke, Gustav Heinemann, Walter Scheel, Karl Carstens, Richard von Weizsäcker and Roman Herzog, who all used the villa as their official seat and partly also residence. As the official residence of the Federal President in Bonn, Villa Hammerschmidt remains a representational building and symbol of the state to this day. From time to time the Head of State also opens the doors of the villa to the general public on "open days". Guided tours and weddings also take place in its neo-classical rooms.

Villa Hammerschmidt, Adenauerallee 135, 53113 Bonn
No access to the public
Guided tours can be booked at Bonn Information
Tel.: +49 228 775001
e-mail: bonninformation@bonn.de



Palais Schaumburg



Konrad Adenauer



The Chancellor's Bungalow

Palais Schaumburg

The name of this magnificent building is closely linked to the early years of the Federal Republic. The palace, which is a mere stone's throw away from Villa Hammerschmidt, became the official seat of Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in November 1949. On 13 January 1950, he received his first guest of state there, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman. It stayed the official seat of the Federal Chancellor until 1976 and was used by Adenauer's successors Ludwig Erhard, Kurt Georg Kiesinger, Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt. The palace also remained part of the Federal Chancellery after 1976. The treaty establishing a monetary, economic and social union between the two German states was signed by representatives from both states Palais Schaumburg on 18 May 1990, marking a milestone on the road to German Reunification.

Since the move of the government in 1999 Palais Schaumburg has served as a secondary office of the Federal Chancellery in Bonn. Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel has her Bonn office in the building.

The former chancellor's office can be visited on guided tours and is decorated with original objects from the time of Konrad Adenauer. The Cabinet Chamber, where many an important decision was made, is also part of the tour.

Palais Schaumburg is currently undergoing renovation and will remain closed for the general public until the works are completed.

The Chancellor's Bungalow

The "living and reception building of the Federal Chancellor", as it was conceived, lies hidden in the park behind the former Federal Chancellery that today houses the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung). The bungalow, which is unpretentious by today's standards, is divided into two parts: a spacious official reception hall with a glass facade and private living quarters with small rooms and a tiny swimming pool. The building is open to the general public within the scope of concerts or guided tours that can be booked through Haus der Geschichte (German National Museum of Contemporary History).

For further information and guided tours please contact the Guide service at Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

Tel.: + 49 228 9165 400

Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.





Winner of the 2014 Bonn International Democracy Prize „Reporters Without Borders“



The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (the former Federal Chancellery)

Bonn International Democracy Prize

The Bonn International Democracy Prize is a symbolic award for commitment to freedom, democracy and human rights in the world. It is presented by the Association of the Bonn International Democracy Prize along with a cheque of EUR 10,000.

The prize has been awarded since 2009 to individuals and organizations who have displayed outstanding commitment in the fight for democracy and human rights in their countries. The Bonn International Democracy Prize aims to build a bridge between the successful experiences of the Federal Republic of Germany and the international development of democratization.

Previous recipients of the award are:

- ✦ **Federica Mogherini** (2016), High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the Commission
- ✦ **Reporters Without Borders** (2014), international organization advocating the freedom of press and expression
- ✦ **Prof. Yadh Ben Achour** (2012): Tunisian constitutional expert and President of Tunisia's first Higher Political Reform Commission charged with overseeing constitutional reform
- ✦ **Dr. Shirin Ebadi** (2010): Iranian lawyer, human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner
- ✦ **Václav Havel** (2009): Czech playwright, author and politician, and former President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic

The Federal Chancellery of 1974

In December 1969, the Federal Cabinet decided to build a new Federal Chancellery. Palais Schaumburg, which had functioned as the residence of the Chancellor until then, no longer fulfilled the technical and spatial requirements of government headquarters. From 1976 to 1999, the Federal Chancellery in Bonn was the official seat of the Federal Chancellors Helmut Schmidt, Helmut Kohl and Gerhard Schröder. After the move of the government to Berlin in 1999 it became the home of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

“Large Two Forms” is a famous bronze sculpture by the sculptor and artist Henry Moore in front of the former Federal Chancellery (today the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development). Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had requested the work of art by his friend Henry Moore as part of the redesign of the Federal Chancellery forecourt. The sculpture, which was poured by the Hermann Noack art foundry, had previously stood in London and was initially loaned to Bonn on 28 August 1979. The official presentation of the sculpture in the presence of the Federal Chancellor and the artist occurred on 19 September 1979. It was acquired by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1981 following a resolution of the Bundestag passed against the parliamentary opposition.



Season opening of the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn



Bonn Opera



The Beethoven Festival, public screening at Münsterplatz

Bonn – Livable City and Cultural Centre

Bonn is a young, growing and vibrant city with over 2,000 years of history and a long tradition of cultural offers. Culture has always played an important role in this city where international flair meets the cheerful Rhenish way of life. The city’s most famous son is known throughout the world and the names of Beethoven and Bonn are forever entwined.

Beethoven

World-famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in a house at Bonngasse in 1770. Beethoven was a “gift of history” that the city repays by preserving the memory of his ingenious creativity and work, and sharing the artistic and social heritage of a truly unique composer with the world. The, quite eventful, story of Bonn’s admiration for Beethoven in the cultural life of the city is a leitmotif and currently nearing its next crescendo: In 2020 the citizens of Bonn and musical enthusiasts from all over the world will celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday.

Bonn’s musical ambassador is the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn, which carries the name of the city and its most famous son out into the world on its international tours. Every year in September/October, Bonn celebrates the Beethoven Festival (Beethovenfest), promoting the composer’s work and presenting renowned international orchestras, outstanding ensembles, prominent soloists and talented young musicians, from classic to avant-garde. Another attraction for visitors from all over the world

is the Beethoven House, which contains the largest private collection dedicated to the composer’s life and work. The neighbouring Chamber Music Hall (Kammermusiksaal) is renowned both for its excellent acoustics and for being an architectonic masterpiece. The virtual “Digital Beethoven House” allows the composer’s legacy to also be experienced by those who cannot travel to Bonn.

Museums and Theatres

The Museum Mile with the Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany), the Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (German National Museum of Contemporary History), the Kunstmuseum Bonn (Bonn Museum of Modern Art), the Zoologische Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig) and the Deutsches Museum Bonn (German Museum Bonn) is an attraction that draws millions of international visitors every year. Altogether Bonn offers a selection of over 30 exhibition types at different venues.

Bonn’s tradition as a city of theatre dates back to the time of the Electors and remains fresh and lively: In 1826 Bonn’s theatre enthusiasts built their own theatre. In 1965 the new Bonn Theatre was opened on the banks of the Rhine; its Grand Hall with 1037 seats is the home of the Bonn Opera. The Schauspiel Bonn theatre also stages productions at its own theatre in Bad Godesberg as well as at Werkstattbühne of the Opera House.



Cherry blossom in Bonn



Market in front of the Old Town Hall



The Hofgarten

The city also boasts an impressive private theatre scene, of which the Contra-Kreis-Theater, Kleine Theater and Euro Theater Central are as much part of as the Junge Theater Bonn and Theater Marabu. The Brotfabrik and Theater im Keller (tik) round off the offer. The Pantheon theatre is known throughout Germany for its satirical, comedy and cabaret performances, and the district Endenich is home to the renowned Haus der Springmaus improvisational theatre and the Theater im Ballsaal. The latter is shared by the Fringe Ensemble and Cocoon Dance.

Bonn Scenes

The Bonn International Silent Film Festival (Internationale Stummfilmtage), organized by the Film Culture Friends' Association (Förderverein Filmkultur), is unique in its kind throughout Germany and enjoys an international reputation among cinema enthusiasts. The annual open-air festival takes place in the University of Bonn's Arkadenhof and attracts a passionate audience.

The main building of Bonn's university is located in the heart of the city in the former electoral palace. Young people characterize the image of the university quarter and the lively city centre. Cafés, bistros and cultural gatherings are magnets for the young of Bonn. The Old Town, which dates back to the Wilhelmine era, offers many other opportunities to enjoy a nice day or evening, with its many student pubs and themed events, such as poetry slams or concerts, or its many international restaurants.

Green Bonn

Bonn is a "green city" that lies embedded in a varied landscape of national parks and forests. The city has an abundance of gardens and parks that afford peace and relaxation or encourage activities in the fresh air. The Freizeitpark Rheinaue (Rheinaue Leisure Park) offers year-round outdoor recreation on 160 hectares and the largest flea market in North Rhine-Westphalia on the third Saturday of every month from March to October. The centres of Bonn and Bad Godesberg also have many green areas that are well worth a visit.

The Alte Zoll (a former bastion of the city fortifications) is part of the most magnificent garden ensemble in the centre of Bonn, reaching from the Hofgarten park (the Court Gardens of the Electoral Palace) with Poppelsdorfer Allee and Poppelsdorf Palace all the way to the Botanical Gardens. The central location of the Hofgarten park makes it particularly popular among students. Sunny weather in Bonn sees almost every inch of the park used, with students and other citizens of the city meeting to relax, sunbathe or play games deep into the night.



The Rhine Promenade



The conical light towers of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany

The Rhine

Bonn's Rheinpromenade (Rhine Promenade) stretches 29 km along both banks of the river and is the longest single promenade on the Rhine. On a clear day one can see the Petersberg across the romantic Rhine. The tradition-steeped Grandhotel Petersberg has hosted such renowned guests as Queen Elizabeth II and Bill Clinton. The legendary Drachenfels (Dragon's Rock), with its ruins and castle, is a popular hiking destination. One of the highlights on the banks of the Rhine is the spectacular Rhein in Flammen (Rhine in Flames) festival between the Siebengebirge and Bonn.

The Museum Mile attracts visitors from all over the world. The Bundeskunsthalle and Haus der Geschichte, as the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany and German National Museum of Contemporary History are known in short, are among the top ten most visited museums in Germany.



The Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig



The Bonn Museum of Modern Art



The German National Museum of Contemporary History



The German Museum Bonn

- 🌐 The Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (German National Museum of Contemporary History) offers a vivid presentation of history since 1945 on 4,000 m² (by the middle of December only temporary exhibitions).
- 🌐 The Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany) stages prestigious exhibitions such as the "Saint Petersburg Eremitage", the Museum of Modern Art's "Guggenheim Contemporary Art", "Florence", "Skythengold" and "Outer Space" to name but a few.
- 🌐 The Kunstmuseum Bonn (Bonn Museum of Modern Art) focuses on the work of August Macke and the Rhenish Expressionists. The museum's other mainstay is German art after 1945.
- 🌐 The Zoologische Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig (Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig), where the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany was promulgated, is one of the most important zoological museums in the country. It offers a new form of ecological information centre under the motto "The Blue Planet" (Der blaue Planet).
- 🌐 The Deutsches Museum Bonn (German Museum Bonn) presents masterpieces of science and technology from the past seven decades on over 1,500 m² with over 100 original exhibits ranging from the Transrapid (a high-speed monorail train) to the Nobel Prize-winning ion trap.



The Beethoven House in Bonn



The August-Macke-Haus



The Academic Art Museum

Several of Bonn's museums are dedicated to the lives of German artists. Ludwig van Beethoven's birth house in the heart of Bonn is a memorial site that attracts people from all over the world.

The Schumann House, which today hosts a large musical library, was where Robert Schumann spent the final years of his life.

The house that Ernst Moritz Arndt had built by the Rhine in 1819 today belongs to the Stadtmuseum Bonn (City Museum of Bonn).

The August Macke House was where the artist lived from 1911 to 1914 with his family. In addition to the studio in the attic, the house also has rooms for exhibitions on the artist's work and life. As of fall 2017, a new extension building will offer new options for display at this museum.

The Bonn Art Association (Bonner Kunstverein), which discusses contemporary art, also has its offices in the Macke Viertel (Macke quarter).

Another interesting museum is the Frauenmuseum (Women's Museum), which was the first of its kind worldwide when it was opened.

The Akademische Kunstmuseum (Academic Art Museum) on the edge of the Hofgarten park features one of

Germany's largest and oldest collections of plaster cast antique sculptures.

The Arithmeum, a unique collection of historical and still functioning calculating machines, has established itself nearby.

The LVR-LandesMuseum (Rhenish Regional Museum) near the central railway station presents Rhenish art and cultural and historical treasures from the Old Stone Age to the present day.

Further information on museums in Bonn is available at www.bonn.de



The Rhenish Regional Museum in Bonn



Bonn **i**nformation

Tourist Information, Hotel Reservations, City and Guided Tours, Guide Service, Bonn Souvenirs, Ticket Sales, Theatre and Concert Tickets

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Mondays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sundays and Public Holidays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Public Transport:

U16, U18, U61, Tram62, U63, U66

Stop: Hauptbahnhof



www.bonn.de

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BONN.

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