

## Churches, squares, historical sites

### Alte Kirche in Bönen

The 'Alte Kirche' was first mentioned in writing in a donation document dated 1032, when Pilgrim, the Archbishop of Cologne, donated several churches to the Deutz Monastery. One of them was also the church from 'Boine' dedicated to Saint Agatha from Catania. The tower was probably erected during the middle of the 12th century and, therefore, is the oldest historical monument of the parish. The nave was consecrated in 1846 after the former construction had to be torn down due to a state of dilapidation. The interior of the church was repainted in 1904.



[Kirchplatz | Bönen](#)



### 'Golddorf' Flierich in Bönen

The Bönen town district of Flierich is a 'gold medal village' in the competition 'Let's Make Our Village Even More Beautiful'. The town district, surrounded by meadows and fields, is grouped beautifully around the church, which was first mentioned in documents dating back to 1268. Even though the centuries to follow brought some structural changes, the small church was able to maintain its special radiance until today. The last renovations were carried out in 1960/61. The pulpit dating back to 1750 deserves particular attention. The church is situated between a gorgeous ensemble of old cross-timber houses. History is palpable here.

[Kirchplatz | Bönen](#)

### Ev. Kirche in Bausenhagen

The superbly situated 'Ev. Kirche', a protestant church in Bausenhagen, a former fortress church made of green sandstone, has its origins in the 12th century. Today's sacristy was added during the Gothic period. This little village church also contains paintings which one wouldn't expect to find: During the 1956 restoration, an admirable Romanesque representation of Christ dating to around 1200 was uncovered in the chorus vault. Interestingly enough, the Catholic and Protestant communities shared the church until 1875. In 1997/98 the interior and exterior were completely restored.

[Steinkuhle | Fröndenberg/Ruhr](#)

### Stiftskirche Fröndenberg

Construction of the 'Stiftskirche', a collegiate church, began in 1230 - a good 30 years later, the little house of God was almost finished. But only almost, since according to letters of indulgence, the final completion was still being worked on in 1371. Inside the plain church, numerous gravestones decorated richly with coats of arms relate the history of regional families. Several of the Grafs von der Mark found their final resting place here. Particularly noticeable is the elevated grave for the Graf Eberhard II (1277-1308) and his wife Irmgard von Berg.



The showpiece of the church is without a doubt the Gothic winged altar, which was created around 1400 and forms the basis of all sorts of speculation: An artist from the school of the famous Conrad von Soest was supposed to have created it. The altar in the collegiate is not complete, however. Parts are located in the Westphalian State Museum for Art and Culture in Münster as well as in the Museum of Cleveland/Ohio. Childhood scenes of Jesus are portrayed. The central painting is particularly captivating: It shows Maria holding the child.

[Kirchplatz | Fröndenberg/Ruhr](#)

### Ev. Kirche in Holzwickede-Opherdicke

Seated picturesquely on the Haarstrang range is the protestant old church from Opherdicke, a small Romanesque basilica dating to the 12th century. The tower is probably a few decades older than the nave, and might have served as a defence tower. The house of God was expanded considerably between 1868 and 1870. Particularly worth seeing inside are the 17th century pulpit and the figure of Jacob carved from oak (after 1400).

Important to the local history is also the 18th century ground-level grave cover which is attached to the west side of the inner wall. It documents around 160 years of church history in Holzwickede.

[Dorfstraße | Holzwickede | \[www.evk-opherdicke.de\]\(http://www.evk-opherdicke.de\)](#)

### Margaretenkirche in Kamen-Methler

From an art historical point of view, the 'Margaretenkirche' in Methler is one of the most important churches in the region. The late Romanesque hall church was built in the middle of the 13th century out of green sandstone. The massive west tower was a part of a former building and is probably around 100 years older than the church. The original wall and vault frescos were rediscovered as early as 1851: The amazement was great as these paintings were revealed, but the damage was also great when they were restored unprofessionally afterwards.

Not until 100 years later were the decorative vault paintings returned to their original condition. The original constitution of the figure paintings, however, could not be saved and they had to be replaced by copies. Particularly admirable are the depictions of the enthroned Christ and Saint Nikolaus from Myra, which have a Byzantine influence.

[Lutherplatz | Kamen | \[www.margaretenkirche.de\]\(http://www.margaretenkirche.de\)](#)

### Pauluskirche in Kamen

The mighty tower of the 'Pauluskirche' was built in the first half of the 12th century - out of green sandstone, as were many churches in the District of Unna. The landmark of the city - also well-known through the Kamener Kreuz as the intersection of the autobahns A1 und A 2 - is the steeple, which was installed approximately 200 years later. It leans, but as opposed to the tower in Pisa, it was built like this on purpose: The steeple slants directly into the prevailing oncoming wind, to the southwest, and is a landmark visible from afar. Today's Langhaus is the church's fourth building meanwhile. It was constructed in the middle of the 19th century in the classical style.

[Kirchplatz | Kamen | \[www.schieferturm.de\]\(http://www.schieferturm.de\)](#)



## Ev. Stadtkirche St. Georg in Lünen

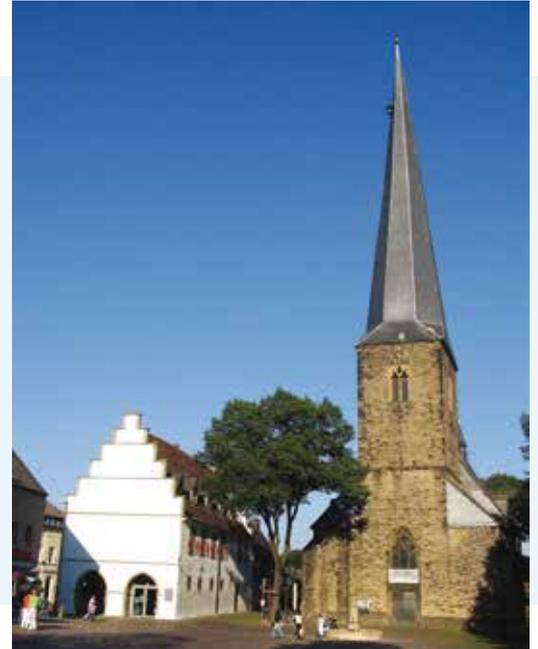
In 1336, by order of Graf Adolf IV von der Mark, the city was moved from the north to the south bank of the Lippe, and thus directly into the Grafís territory. A new city needed a new church, so a new house of God was built between 1360 and 1366 - in honour of Saint George and Saint Katharina. In 1512, this Westphalian hall church, with an almost square ground plan, burned down, and nine years later radiated once again in all of its beauty. Numerous paintings still remain from this period. One of the most important works of art is the winged altar dating to 1470, which was probably created by one of the students of the 'Master of Liesborn'.

[St. Georg-Kirchplatz | Lünen](#)

## Kirche St. Viktor in Schwerte

No one knows for sure when the first church 'St. Viktor' was built. Art historians date it to the 14th century: This is substantiated by a few wall paintings, especially an impressive crucifixion group in the southern side aisle which supposedly originated shortly after 1300. The church received its appearance today in 1508, when St. Viktor was converted into a Gothic hall church with an impressive star-covered vault. Of course this church also has a very special highlight: The so-called 'Golden Altar', created in 1523, is a miracle of the art of wood-carving and a breathtaking masterpiece. A total of 15 different Christian subjects are depicted in the illustrated windows, and another 72 scenes are painted on two-winged altars ñ including the legend of Saint Victor.

[Brückstraße | Schwerte | \[www.evangelische-kirche-schwerte.de\]\(http://www.evangelische-kirche-schwerte.de\)](#)



## Stiftskirche Cappenberg in Selm

At the location where the 'Schloss Cappenberg' invites the public to unusual art exhibits today, was the building site of the double Premonstrat monastery finished in 1122 - a Romanesque church in the form of a cross with westwork and nun gallery. At the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th century, the church was converted into a three-aisled basilica, apparently incorporating parts of the old church, since the remainder of 12th century decorative paintings were uncovered in 1971.

Situated in an idyllic location, the church offers a virtual collection of art historical treasures, almost all of which date to the early 16th century. The piece de resistance is a 31 centimetre tall, filigreed and gilded portrait head, which is supposed to be an authentic portrayal of no one less than Emperor Friedrich 'Barbarossa' himself. The unique piece, which is considered a gift of Barbarossa to his godfather Otto von Cappenberg, originates from around 1160.

[Schlossplatz | Selm](#)



### Ev. Stadtkirche in Unna

The prominent highlight of Unna is the 'Ev. Stadtkirche', a late gothic protestant town church, which was built between 1322 and 1467. The steeple is not that old: It wasn't installed until 1863, after a strike of lightning completely destroyed the predecessor steeple. The history of the church is closely linked with the history of the City of Unna: This is where the reformer Philipp Nicolai (1591-1601 in Unna) preached, who was known far beyond the boundaries of Westphalia. The hall church surprises the visitor with its amazing height and a special architectural feature: The side aisles were led around the chorus as a tower gallery. Climbing to the top of the tower is a special highlight: At a height of more than 50 metres, a wonderful view of the city and the Hellweg region is afforded.

Kirchplatz | Unna | [www.unnakirche.de](http://www.unnakirche.de)

### Nicolai Viertel in Unna

One of the loveliest 'corners' of the district town of Unna is the 'Nicolai Viertel', a quarter located directly between the 'Stadtkirche' and the town wall. The picturesque streets lined with cross-timbered houses have experienced many a storm. Numerous artists have settled here and meanwhile lend the quarter its character. Particularly in summer, there's a very special flair in the air. A complete restoration was undergone by the 'Nicolaihaus', which today is home to the International Composers Library as well as a lecture hall.

It was named along with the rest of the quarter after Philipp Nicolai, who made a name for himself as a preacher and a writer of numerous church hymns. Meanwhile it has been established that he did not live in the house seen today. It wasn't built until after his death, but that doesn't spoil anything.

Nicolaistraße / Güldener Trog | Unna | [www.unna.de](http://www.unna.de)



### Kapuzinerkloster in Werne

An oasis describes the 'Kapuzinerkloster' in Werne, a monastery, which was founded in 1659 on what was the southern edge of the city at the time. Well worth a visit is the monastery church, which was built between 1677 and 1680 by the monk Ambrosius von Oelde, who died here in 1705. Well-known artists supplied the rich interior of the church. The buildings, which are still used as a monastery today, are surrounded by a high wall, which also encloses a monastery garden. Right next to the wall is a 'pest shack', which was used to isolate persons with contagious diseases.

Südmauer | Werne



## Rathaus und Kirchhof in Werne

The 'old' town hall in Werne was built between 1512 and 1514. Along with the neighbouring St. Christophorus Church and the 'stone house' it is one of the oldest stone structures in the city on the river Lippe. It wasn't without a reason that the citizens gave the town hall a prestigious appearance: The town hall was meant to serve as testimony to the power and wealth of the citizens. The Gothic arcades on the ground floor served as a waiting area but also as a place for public announcements. This was also the site of the pillory, the official scales and the guardroom. Upstairs, the city council met and still meets there today. The building was completely restored in the early 1970s.

The churchyard is surrounded by numerous well-preserved cross-timber houses from the 15th and 16th centuries. Some of them once served as warming rooms: The owners could warm themselves before or after attending church at the home of their tenants.

[Markt / Kirchplatz | Werne | www.werne.de](#)

## St. Christophorus-Kirche in Werne

The 'St. Christophorus-Kirche' is one of the oldest parishes in Westphalia. There is no record of when the first church was built at this location. After the church burned in the 15th century, causing the tower to collapse, it was rebuilt. The western part dates to around 1450 and the tower dates to around 1550. Worth seeing inside are a double Madonna from the 15th century and a larger-than-life Christophorus, which was made at the beginning of the 17th century. The church was completely restored between 1995 and 1998.

[Kirchplatz | Werne](#)

### Impressum

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01/2017