

10 Beethon

In front of the Beethoven Hall

In 1986, the Düsseldorf-based sculptor Klaus Kammerichs created "Beethon", a visually stunning concrete bust based on the best-known portrait of Beethoven, painted in 1819 by Karl Josef Stieler (the name of the bust is a play on the German word "Beethon", which means concrete). The sculpture has since become synonymous not only with the Beethoven Hall but also with the city of Bonn itself.

11 The Old Cemetery

Bornheimer Strasse

The Old Cemetery was originally established outside the city walls and dates back to the time of Prince Elector Joseph Clemens. In 1715 he designated it for burials 'in the presence of residents, passers by and soldiers'. In 1787 an electoral decree declared the cemetery to be the only burial ground in Bonn. During their lifetimes those who rest here under the high trees represented the bourgeois world of one of the most important German university towns of the 19th century. The distinguished names of the deceased and many of the monuments which were executed by famous artists serve to make the Old Cemetery famous.

The grave of Maria Magdalena Beethoven, Beethoven's mother, lay forgotten for many years. In 1826 the grave which was one of the oldest existing graves in the cemetery was sold, and it was only in 1932 that the grave was identified as the resting place of Beethoven's mother. The Beethoven House Society donated a simple headstone bearing a quotation from one of Beethoven's letters. The headstone was renewed in 1970.

12 La Redoute

Bad Godesberg, Kurfürstenallee

La Redoute, a dance and concert hall for the Elector and his court, was the last building of the electoral age. Built in the neo-classical style, the mansion was commissioned by Max Franz to promote his spa town Bad Godesberg. This is where the young Beethoven played before Haydn.

13 Lippesches Palace

Oberkassel, Königswinterer Strasse 705

The aristocracy built its refuge far outside of Bonn's city walls. The house was built in the middle of the 18th century by baroque master builder Johann Conrad Schlaun as a summer residence for the noble family of Meinerzhagen from Cologne. Originally located in a large landscaped park the ensemble

consisted of the main house, two side wings and a utility complex to the south. During Beethoven's lifetime the house has passed by marriage into the possession of the Count of Lippe. The magnificent hall in the north wing lent itself perfectly to musical events.

:bonn information

Touristische Informationen:

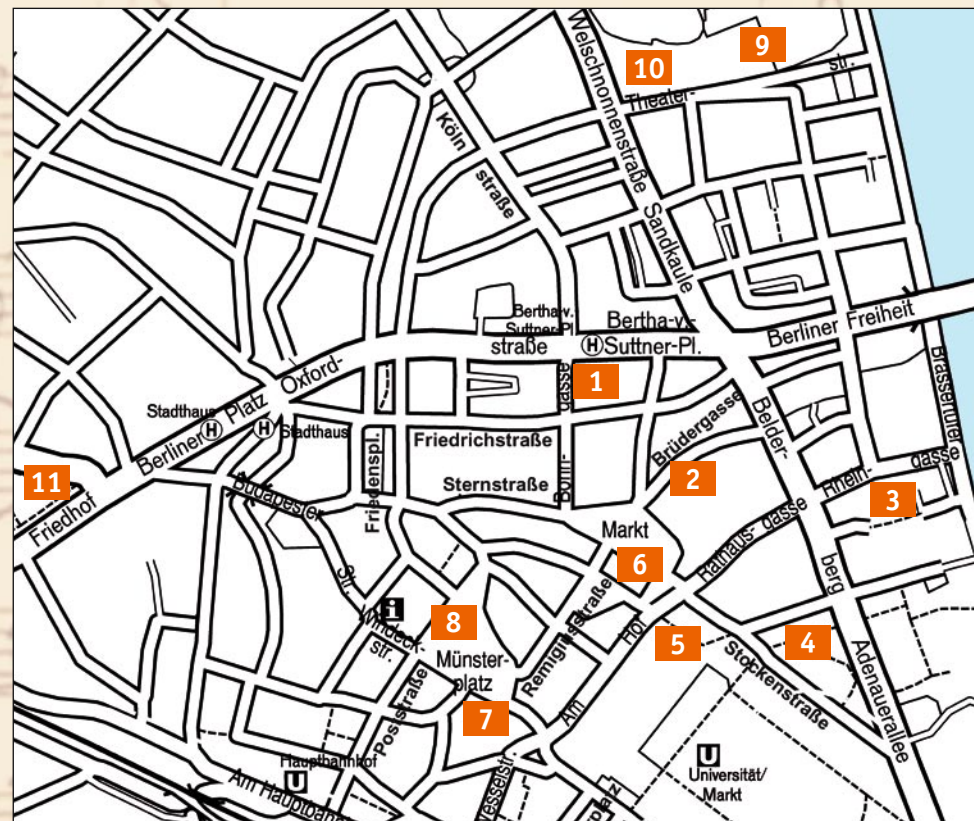
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Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität

ehemals Residenz der Kölner Kurfürsten
Die beiden „Bönnchen Ballstücke“ des Hofmalers François Rousseau zeigen das um 1750 erbaute Hoftheater, heute Hörsaal 17 neben dem Koblenzer Tor. Das kurfürstliche Orchester ist zweigeteilt dargestellt. Hier musizierten schon Ludwig van Beethovens gleichnamiger Großvater, sein Vater Johann und er selbst.

Once Residence of the Prince-Electors of Cologne
The two "Bönnchen Ballstücke" ("Works on a court festivities in Bonn"), painted by court artist François Rousseau depict the court theatre, which was built around 1750, today lecture room 17, next to the Koblenzer Tor. The orchestra of the electoral princes is shown divided into two sections. Beethoven's identically named grandfather, his father Johann and Ludwig himself all worked here as musicians.

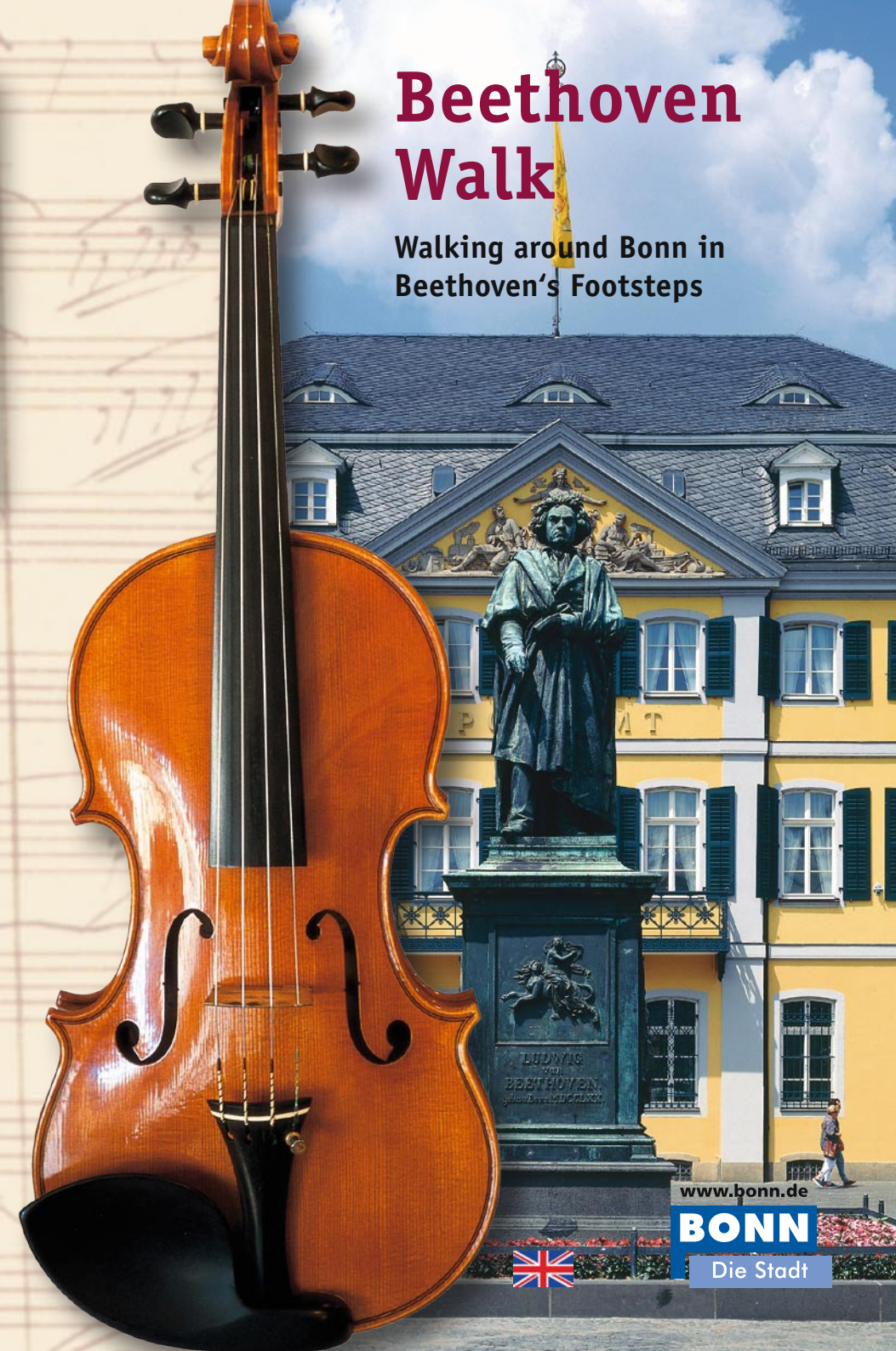


BONN
Die Stadt

One of the Beethoven Walk's
information boards.

Beethoven Walk

Walking around Bonn in
Beethoven's Footsteps



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BONN

Die Stadt

In the 16th century the City of Bonn, originally a Roman legionary fortress called “Castra Bonnensia”, became the capital of the Archbishopric and Electorate of Cologne. The electors Joseph Clemens and Clemens August transformed the city by building palaces and the Rococo-style town hall. The Bonn skyline was also dominated by numerous churches and several palaces owned by the aristocracy. Life in the city revolved around the electoral court. It was in this Bonn, a city with a population of around 10.000, where Ludwig van Beethoven was born on December 16 or 17, 1770 in the garden annexe at Bonngasse 20. This walking tour around Beethoven’s native city, which now has a population of 314.000, takes you back to the time of Beethoven’s youth in the electoral city of Bonn. (The stops 12 (La Redoute) and 13 (Lippesches Palais) are located outside the city centre in the districts Bad Godesberg and Beuel-Oberkassel respectively.)



1 Beethoven-House
Bonngasse 20

The house where the great composer was born is a typical Bonn town house of the Baroque period, its only distinguishing feature being a low, fairly narrow extension added to the garden-facing side. The young Beethoven family moved into the first floor of the extension in 1767. Their son Ludwig was born in the building’s small attic room. The house in the Bonngasse, where the Beethoven family lived for seven years, is the only one of the family’s five homes still maintained.

2 Parish Church of St. Remigius
Brüdergasse

St. Remigius, the only remaining gothic church in Bonn, was originally the convent church of the Minorite monks. The church was built between 1276 and the end of the 14th century and clearly shows the austere architectural lines so typical for mendicant orders. Ludwig van Beethoven played the organ for early mass here when he was only 10 years old. Ludwig Koenig, an organ builder from Cologne built the original outstanding, richly carved organ in 1748. It was almost completely destroyed in WW2, only the console survived intact. The font over which Ludwig van Beethoven was baptised on 17th December 1770 can be seen in the side aisle on the left of the church. This font originally stood in the nearby parish church of St. Remigius which was demolished in 1806 after which the patronage was transferred onto this church.

3 Rheingasse 24

The Beethoven family moved into the imposing gabled house owned by master baker Gottfried Fischer in 1776. Ludwig van Beethoven’s grandfather, whose name was identical to that of his grandson, had also lived in this house. Ludwig’s brother Nikolaus Johann was born here in 1776, later the family moved to Wenzelgasse 25 where young Ludwig spent much of his youth. The family remained there, with some interruptions, until 1785.

4 Friedrich-Wilhelms-University, former Residence of the Electoral Princes of Cologne
Regina-Pacis-Weg

The Residence Palace was the centre of the Electoral Prince’s court, the venue for the very highest state representation. The court theatre in the gallery wing was particularly magnificent and was used for performances of various kinds, plays, operas, concerts and balls all took place here. Beethoven was just over 6 years old when a terrible fire destroyed much of the palace in January 1777, only parts of the wing overlooking the Hofgarten were spared.

5 Palace Chapel
An der Schlosskirche

When the Residence Palace was rebuilt after the fire in 1779 the chapel was relocated to its present position in the east wing. The building was executed by the Prince’s master builder Johann Heinrich Roth in the decorative style of Louis XVI

and was to be his last significant work. The Electoral Prince was able to enter the three sided gallery by a door which led directly from his private chambers. A second gallery on the east side was for the organ and musicians. Young Beethoven received music lessons at this instrument from court organist and composer Christian Gottlob Neefe. The chapel was Beethoven’s first place of work after he received his official salaried appointment as organist at the court of the Electoral Prince aged only 14.

6 Zehrgarten
Markt 11/Am Alten Rathaus

The position of the Town Hall has been skilfully chosen to complement the long, narrow shape of the Market Place. The Electoral Prince Clemens August himself laid the foundation stone on 24th April 1737 and the design of the building, created by the electoral court architect Michael Leveilly, is orientated towards the architecture of the nearby Residence Palace. A dominant feature of the Town Hall is the large outside staircase with its magnificent gold plated elements. If you look diagonally across from the Town Hall you will see a photographic shop. This is where the “Im Zehrgarten” inn once stood, the hub of Bonn’s literary and music scene. The landlady Anna Maria Koch, widow of the court butler, also ran a bookshop and regularly received Bonn’s literati. Her beautiful daughter Barbara, known as Babette, was the centre of attention at the widow’s soirées and was always surrounded by admirers, including the young Beethoven. When Beethoven left Bonn, his friends from the “Zehrgarten” gave him an album filled with messages wishing him good fortune in the future. The most famous – and prophetic – entry, by Count Ferdinand von Waldstein, ranks Beethoven alongside Mozart and Haydn: “...with the help of unrelenting labour you shall receive Mozart’s spirit from Haydn’s hands” (On display at the Beethoven-House).

7 The Minster/Minster School
Martins Square

The Minster in Bonn, originally the collegiate church of St.Cassius and St. Florentius, is one of the most important building monuments in the Rhine valley. Its beginnings date back to late antiquity and it also bears witness to the emergence of Christianity; its very foundation was a memorial chapel known as a ‘cella memoriae’ dating from the second half of the 3rd. century which was uncovered on the perimeter of a roman cemetery. The small wooden church which was later built over the position of the cella memoriae is linked to the names of two martyrs, Cassius and Florentius, who were roman soldiers and members of the Theban legion. The present

building, which incorporates parts of the original 11th century church, owes its characteristic east apse, inaugurated in 1153, to Provost Gerhard von Are. He also constructed the cloister in the 12th century. A large organ originally stood on the west gallery and formed part of the magnificent baroque interior. The young court organist Beethoven played the organ here on special occasions. After leaving the private school of schoolmaster Ropertz in the Rathausgasse Beethoven attended the Latin school for boys in the chapter room of the Cassius Collegiate situated in the east wing of the cloister.

8 Breunings House
Beethoven Monument/Dreieck 8
Minster Place

The baroque palace on Minster Place was built by Deacon Radermacher of the collegiate as his home and passed into the ownership of the von Fürstenberg family in 1830. It is now used by the Post Office and offers a very picturesque backdrop for the Beethoven Monument. This was the first monument ever erected to Beethoven in his home town. The monument was created by a sculptor from Dresden, Ernst Julius Hähnel, and it shows Beethoven looking forward and awaiting musical inspiration. The plinth is decorated with allegorical figures denoting four categories of music; the fantastic, the dramatic, the symphonic and sacramental. Original scores of the 9th Symphony and the Missa Solemnis were placed in the foundation stone of the monument. The unveiling of the statue took place on the 22nd August 1845, the year of Beethoven’s 75th birthday. The occasion was marked by a music festival lasting 3 days, the first Beethoven Festival. Amongst the illustrious guests was King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia with his wife and Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Great Britain who followed the ceremony from the balcony of the Fürstenberg Palace. The house belonging to privy councillor von Breuning stood where Kaufhof stands today. Tragically he was killed in the fire of 1777 which destroyed the Residence Palace. His widow and four children offered the rather headstrong young Ludwig van Beethoven much domestic security.

9 The Beethoven Hall
Wachsbleiche

Opened in September 1959, the new Beethoven Hall, designed by the architect Siegfried Wolske, has seen Bonn become a fixture in the calendar of the world’s leading music festivals. Paul Hindemith gave the inaugural performance with his own composition “Nobilissima visione”. The Beethoven Hall today is the third one; the first was constructed in 1845.