

The WestfalenWanderWeg from Hattingen to Altenbecken has just been added to the list, a national hiking trail with a total length of 210 km, with more than 9 km running through the northern part of Schwerte.



available in the form of a map showing all the interesting sights of the centre of the town. Souvenirs of Schwerte are also available in the Tourist Office.

Schwerte Tourist Information Office
Brückstraße 14
58239 Schwerte
Tel: 02304 104 777
E-mail: i-schwerte@ruhrtalmuseum.de
www.schwerte.de
Open daily, except Mondays and public holidays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Metal pipes foundry and the Nightwatch

Other interesting locations like the "Freischütz" (rifle club) in the Schwerte Forest or the "Rohrmeisterei" civic and cultural centre beside the Ruhr with the adjacent Schwerte Mustard Mill, or the old castles and stately homes around the town and the many interesting natural sites – all combine to make a visit to Schwerte on the Ruhr a great experience.

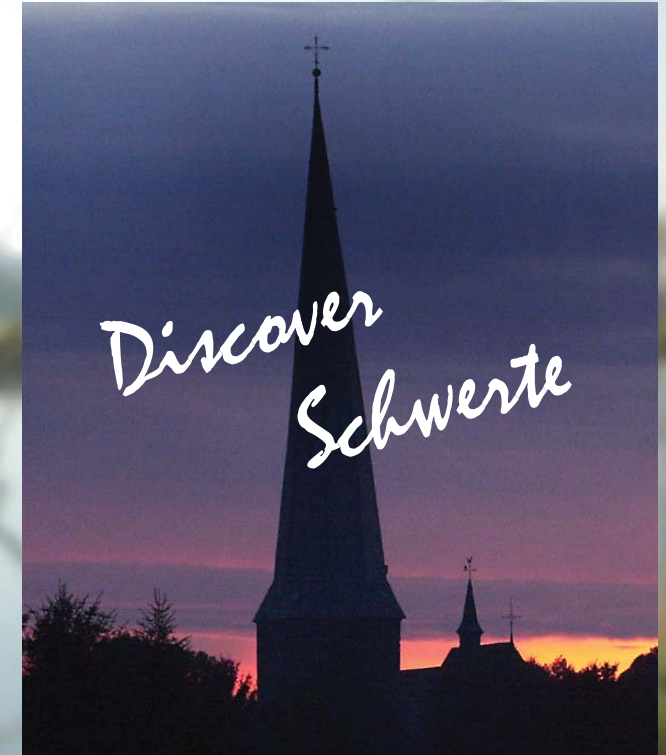
For guests and visitors to "Pannekauen-Schwaierte", to use the town's ancient nickname, the Schwerte Tourist Office can arrange guided tours of the town and historical trails. This service is in great demand from groups and schools parties.

In the evening, we recommend a romantic "night-watch patrol" through Schwerte's beautiful Old Town.

For visitors who cannot join in one of these guided tours, a second edition of the free "Historic Old Town Tour" is

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Stadt Schwerte



Schwerte: In close-up

Schwerte, the old Westphalian Hanseatic town in the heart of North Rhein-Westphalia, is making a name for itself as a favourite destination for holiday-makers in search of adventure or relaxation, and in particular has many attractions to offer those in search of a weekend or a short break, when it comes to cultural and sporting leisure activities.

For guests looking for somewhere to lay their weary heads after an exciting day in the Ruhrtal, there are 450 beds in traditional Schwerte hotels, guesthouses and the two large hostels "Haus Villigst" (run by the Westphalian Evangelical Church, down by the riverside) and the Catholic Academy in the Schwerte Forest, as well as the 'Friends of Nature House', a young people's hostel and affiliated eco-centre at Ebberg.



Schwerte stands on the Ruhr and is easily accessible thanks to its first-class transport links from every direction. Whether arriving by road or by train, visitors are sure to succumb to the charms of the town and its delightful surroundings, and enjoy themselves here.

Of course, the finest approach to the town is the one that cycle tourists discover as they pedal through the green meadows of the Ruhr towards Schwerte.

From far off, the prominent tower of St Viktor's Church beckons, with its westwards leaning spire, inviting visitors to discover the beautiful Old Town in its shadow – full of romantic corners, lovingly preserved half-timbered houses: a photographer's dream.

When it comes to gastronomic treats, the visitor is spoilt for choice: there are smart and pleasant restaurants all over town, offering foreign specialities or delicious local Westphalian fare.

Carved altar and pancakes

Talking of food, the traditional local dish, "Schwerter Pannekauken", is not to be missed.

Close to St Viktor's Church with its remarkable art treasures (including the "Golden Altar", a carved altar of the Antwerp school erected in 1523, and the oldest and most beautiful fresco in Westphalia), is the Ruhrtal Museum in the old Town Hall with its stepped gables.

The history of Schwerte and the Ruhrtal is presented here in the permanent collection, while temporary exhibitions and cultural events take place in the main hall.

Swimmers large and small will have lots of fun in the all-weather leisure pool in the *Schützenhof*. In addition to several indoor and outdoor pools, a 55-metre flume with light effects, a natural salt-water pool and many other attractions, the FAB also possesses a large sauna area with relaxation rooms. Top quality food and many additional facilities like aqua-gym or massage round off a visit to the all-weather leisure pool, in the spirit of the FAB's motto: "Here, the sun shines all year round".

In the summer, the popular "Elsetal" public pool in Ergste, in a pretty, rural setting, attracts fans of sunshine and water from far and near for fun and games in Schwerte.



For those who fancy enjoying the superb meadows along the Ruhr from the river itself, the "Lenne-Ruhr Kanu-Tour" company in Schwerte offers the possibility of 'conquering' the Ruhr by canoe, either individually or in a group with a guide – a real high point of your visit to Schwerte.



Pedalling through the Ruhrtal

The Ruhrtal offers particularly good leisure facilities. Clearly signposted cycle routes, for example the national "Kaiser-route", are an invitation to relax and enjoy yourself on two wheels. Schwerte is a staging-post or stop-over for cycle tours lasting several days. Overnight accommodation on these trails is specially adapted, and includes safe storage for bicycles and luggage.

The latest innovation is the offer of favourable all-in rates for conferences and for sporting and cultural activities, publicised under the banner "Schwerte – gastlich & aktiv".

Schwerte is the town with the most forests in the whole Kreis Unna district, and hence is extremely attractive to ramblers. The footpaths and trails are always way-marked, and maintained by the Schwerte branch of the SGV (Sauerland Mountain Association). They total almost 180 km, but vary in length and difficulty and hence are as suitable for those on a Sunday afternoon stroll as for serious hikers.