

Beethoven Tour

Tracing the footsteps of Ludwig van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn in 1770 and spent the first 22 years of his life in the city. The Beethoven Tour invites you to get to know the world-famous composer at authentic sites across Bonn.

The Beethoven Tour is divided into two parts. The BTHVN STORY consists of eleven stations and provides a picture of the young Beethoven's life in his immediate surroundings in Bonn. A further eleven stations take you to sights and nature in the BTHVN REGION. The young Beethoven spent much time in what is today the Rhein-Sieg District, seeking and finding relaxation and inspiration.

Come and experience Ludwig van Beethoven at the historical sites of his life. You can visit all 22 locations of the Beethoven Tour or only select individual sights.

To use the digital and barrier-free version of the BTHVN STORY, just call up our website or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



www.bthvn-story.de

BTHVN, the logo for the Beethoven anniversary year 2020, means and is pronounced "Beethoven". The composer has himself used the consonants as an abbreviated signature.

Imprint

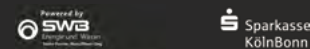
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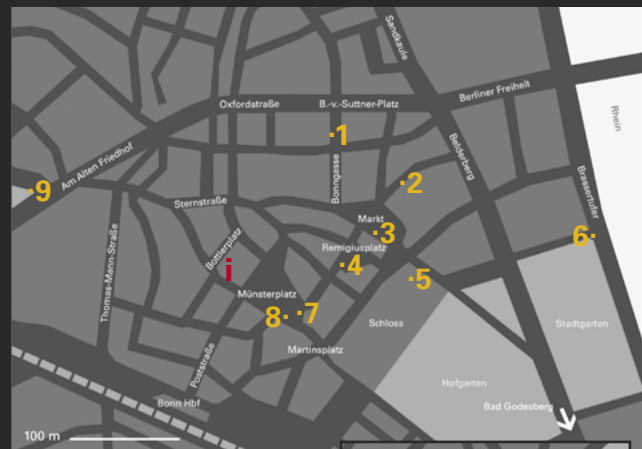


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Gute Aussichten mit Beethovenstrom.
www.beethovenstrom.de

BTHVN STORY



Bonn Information

The locations in Beethoven's birthplace of Bonn

1 Beethoven House



The rear building of the house at Bonngasse 20, the house where Ludwig van Beethoven was born in December 1770.

Bonngasse 20, around 1827, and the rear building before its restoration in 1889

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

2 Remigius Church



The church in which the 10-year-old Beethoven played the organ for the early mass and the site of his baptismal font since 1806.

The organ Beethoven played in St. Remigius Church

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

3 Zehrgarten Inn

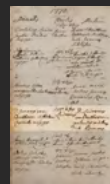


The inn where Beethoven celebrated his farewell on 1 November 1792 before his departure for Vienna.

Market place with Zehrgarten Inn (second house from the right) and the Old City Hall (centre), view from the second half of the 18th century

Source: Stadtarchiv Bonn

4 Remigius Square



The site of St. Remigius parish church until 1800, where Beethoven was baptized on 17 December 1770.

Entry for Ludwig van Beethoven, dated 17 December 1770, in the baptismal register of the former St. Remigius parish church at today's Remigiusplatz

Source: Stadtarchiv Bonn

5 Electoral Court Chapel



As a court musician, Beethoven also performed at the Palace Theatre (Schosstheater) on countless occasions.

"Bonn Ball" depiction of a masked ball in Bonn Castle in the 18th century

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn/
UNESCO-Welterbestätte Schlösser Augustusburg und Falkenlust
Photographer: Klaus Weidner

6 Rhine Promenade



The Rhine played a significant role in Beethoven's life, not only as a travel route.

Siebengebirge mountains seen from the rampart at Alter Zoll

Source: Stadtarchiv Bonn

7 Breuning House



As a close family friend, Beethoven visited the Breuning family home almost daily.

In Beethoven's time, the Breuning House was located at the site of today's department store

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

8 Beethoven Monument

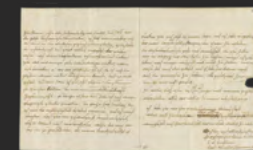


The monument was inaugurated in 1845 with significant support from Robert Schumann and Franz Liszt.

Gathering for the solemn unveiling of the Beethoven Monument on Münsterplatz on 12 August 1845

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

9 Old Cemetery



Beethoven's mother, whom the city's most famous son deeply mourned, is remembered here with a grave of honour.

In his letter to Joseph von Schaden in Augsburg of 15 September 1787, Beethoven expressed his sorrow about his mother's death

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

10 La Redoute

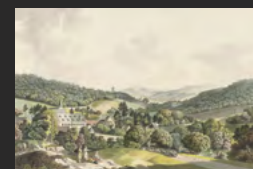


The ballroom and concert hall where Joseph Haydn first met the 21-year-old Beethoven on his return from London in July 1792.

The Redoute ballroom in Godesberg with the Electoral theatre and guest houses, 1792, etching by Johann Ziegler from a water colour by Lorenz Jansch

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

11 Draitschquelle



The spring from which Beethoven once went to Marienforst Abbey near Bonn to play the organ.

Marienforst convent near Bonn, 1792, etching by Johann Ziegler from a water colour by Lorenz Jansch

Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

Discover all the locations on your tour of Bonn.



BTHVN REGION



The locations in the Rhein-Sieg District

12 Roisdorf Spring / Bornheim

Family excursions to Roisdorf Spring introduced Beethoven to spa water at an early age.



The Roisdorf spring, 1850, the nearby Alfter Castle can be seen in the background, left
Source: Stadtarchiv Bornheim

13 Alfter

As a piano teacher for the nobility at court, Beethoven often played in the castles and palaces of the region.



Alfter Castle with the adjacent convent of St. Anne of the Augustinian Sisters on a map of 1793
Source: Archiv des Landschaftsverbands Rheinland

14 Odendorf / Swisttal



Music excursions often took Beethoven to “the beautiful area” around Bonn, including Odendorf.

Old church with tithe house
Source: Richard Arzdorf

15 Rheinbach

The medieval city walls of Rheinbach were a sight which the young Beethoven may often have seen.



Reconstructed medieval view of the town of Rheinbach, drawing by Franz Josef Feuser
Source: Stadtarchiv Rheinbach

16 Meckenheim

In 1781 Beethoven’s father, Johann, took him on a hike during which they made stop in Meckenheim.



Reconstructed postcard view of Meckenheim
Source: Stadtarchiv Meckenheim

17 Holzem Chapel / Wachtberg

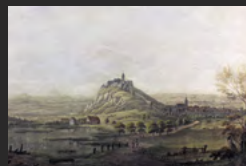
The tenor Anton Raaff, a colleague of Beethoven’s grandfather, donated Holzem Chapel in 1744.



Anton Raaff (1714–1797), one of the most famous tenors of the 18th century, painting by Clemens August Philippart
Source: Beethoven-Haus Bonn

18 Michaelsberg Abbey

Beethoven performed on the organ of the Benedictine abbey for the first time at the age of ten and also enjoyed playing there again later.



Michaelsberg with the Benedictine Abbey and the town of Siegburg, seen from the north, around 1800, coloured copperplate engraving by Johann Ludwig Bleuler
Source: Stadtmuseum Siegburg

19 Hennef



During their hike in 1781, Beethoven and his father met music lovers in Hennef, presumably Judge Franz Josef von Proff.

From 1766, Franz Joseph Freiherr von Proff (1746–1799) was the highest legal authority for almost the entire area of today’s Rhein-Sieg District on the right bank of the Rhine
Source: Hans Freiherr von Proff, Tutzing

20 Heisterbach Abbey

During a famine in 1770, the year that Beethoven was born, Heisterbach Abbey, which the composer knew as a pilgrimage site, provided the needy with daily care.



The abbey church of Heisterbach Monastery as Beethoven might still have seen it, steel plate engraving by C. Collart, 1844
Source: Virtuelles Brückenhofmuseum Königswinter

21 Petersberg

St. Peter’s Pilgrimage Chapel is named after the mountain, which was a regular excursion destination for Beethoven.



St Peter’s Chapel, which gave Petersberg its name, on a lithograph, around 1860
Source: Siebengebirgsmuseum der Stadt Königswinter.

22 Dragon’s Rock

Beethoven, who was inspired by nature from an early age, spent his entire life remembering the panoramic view from Dragon’s Rock.



View from Drachenfels platform to Bonn and the Rhine landscape, around 1820
Source: Kreisarchiv des Rhein-Sieg-Kreises

Discover all the locations on your excursions in the Rhein-Sieg District.



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