

A Requirements Engineer's Guide to Essen

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This document is a small visitor's guide for attendees of the Requirement Engineering 02 Conference. It is intended as a brief summary of the various guides attendees find in their bags and on the web.

Tourist Information:

At the Tourist Office you can get city guides, maps for tours and walks, souvenirs and general information about Essen and the adjacent areas. Temporarily a representative of this office is accessible at the registration desk. [The Tourist office itself is located near to the main station, Am Hauptbahnhof 2, (0201)19433]

Transportation:

Essen as a part of the VRR (Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Ruhr, the regional transport association) has a well-developed and dense public transport service, including bus and tram connections within the city as well as train connections to towns all over Germany and adjacent countries like France or Austria.

Costs for single inner-city tickets are 1,75 € or 3,30 € per trip (the latter one includes adjacent cities). A day pass is 6,35 € or 9,30 € (adjacent cities) and can be used by up to 5 persons at a time. Such tickets may be purchased at some subway stations or the main station (recommended).

More information is available at the information office inside the main station or at www.vrr.de (german).

Emergencies:

The telephone number for the police is 110. The fire department and ambulance service can be reached by 112.

WWW Guides:

The official site of the town www.essen.de holds a lot of general information for tourists. There is also a virtual tour through the city available.

Attractions and places of interest:

Lake Baldeney: An artificial water reservoir, today used as a secluded recreation area in the south of Essen. People spend their time here walking along the lake, cycling or inline skating. Near the lake are some (expensive) restaurants from which you can watch some rowing- and sailing boats or you may explore the lake yourself on a boat of the "Weisse Flotte" (ticket-costs: from 3€ up to 8€). [Train S6, Stations: Werden, Villa Hügel or Stadtwald]

Villa Hügel: The Villa Hügel is located near Lake Baldeney. It's a large private residence built in the 19th century by Alfred Krupp. He was the most powerful industrialist in Essen (or may be even Germany at that time) and this residence has been the representative domicile of his family. It is possible to

visit the Villa and the guesthouses where the historical “Krupp Collection” is shown. [Train S6, Station: Villa Hügel]

Alte Synagoge: The “Alte Synagoge” is a memorial place for the Jews who died in the Second World War and the Nazi regime. It was build 1913, provides room for 1400 persons and is therefore one of the largest synagogues in Germany. It contains exhibitions about the 3rd Reich and the NS-System. [city centre, tram 101, 101, Station: Porscheplatz]

Zeche Zollverein: The last remaining Essen colliery. It was shut down 1986 and since then most of it's very large area has been used as an “exhibition space” showing the historical way of coal production. Furthermore the Design Centre “Nordrhein-Westfahlen” and a restaurant are situated there. (A Social Event for the attendees takes place at this Restaurant, called Casino) [Gelsenkirchenerstr. 181, tram 107, Station: Zollverein]

Zeche Carl: A coalmine that was shut down 1970. Today a lot of parties, concerts (mostly independent rock), small cultural events etc. take place in this building. [Wilhelm-Nieswand-Allee 100, bus 111, Station: Zeche Karl]

Meteorit: Meteorit is a design project of Andre Heller sponsored by the RWE AG. He used light and sound effects to create his installations and give the visitor a feeling of calmness and amazement. It's also meant as a theme park about energy and the environment. [Grillostr. 2]

Gruga Park: The park with its 700,000 m² is one of the biggest European recreation parks. There you can enjoy long walks through its superb park landscape and admire the many exotic animals and plants along the way. [Külshammer Weg 32, tram U11, Station: Gruga, 0201 88 83 -104/-106]

Gruga Stadium: Essens largest indoor-stadium, used for sports-events as well as pop concerts. [next to the Gruga Park]

Museums and Theatres:

Aalto Theater: Designed by the architect Alvar Aalto it is the largest theatre in Essen. It is mainly known by its famous ballet and opera performances. [Opernplatz 10, tram U11, Station: Saalbau]

Grillo Theater: Here you can see the classical drama as well as a modern play from a present day author. Grillo represents the young and fresh theatre in Essen. [Theaterplatz, tram U11, Station: Hirschlandplatz]

Folkwang Museum: Folkwang is the most famous museum in Essen . Its collection includes among other things paintings and sculptures of the 19th and 20th century. Furthermore it is well known because of its temporary exhibitions like the “Vincent van Gogh” and the “Paradise lost” exhibition with works of Paul Gauguin. [Goethestr. 41, tram U11, Station: Rüttenscheider Stern]

Ruhrlandmuseum: It has specialised in geology and archeology of the Ruhr District general seen as natural history. Furthermore the permanent exhibition shows the circumstances working class families lived in during the beginning of the 20th century. [same place like Folkwang Museum]

Poster Museum: The collection of the museum contains around 120000 different posters of all styles, areas and periods. [Rathenastr. 2, tram U11, U15, Station: Hirschlandplatz]

Places of interest in the surrounding of Essen:

Neue Mitte Oberhausen: A very large shopping complex (like an American mall) including several pubs, restaurants and a cinema.

Warner Bros. Movie World: A theme park specialised on movies, costumes and artists of Warner Brother movies like for example a Batman Ride, Police Academy stunt-show, etcetera (mostly created for teenager).

Casino Hohensyburg: A casino with roulette, black jack, etcetera. (Exclusive)

Dortmunder Zoo: Here live over 2000 animals of more than 300 species from various continents. The main focus is the South-American continent with its fauna and flora.

Cinemas:

There are a lot of small and medium sized cinemas in Essen, but the most famous is the **Cinemaxx** [near the University, tram U11, Station Berliner Platz], the largest multiplex cinema in Germany.

Shopping:

For most shops the opening hours are: Mo. – Fr. 9.00 to 18.00
Sat. 9.00 to 16.00

Essen is called the “Einkaufsstadt” (shopping-city). A proof of this reputation is, that even people of the netherlands are coming here just for shopping and strolling.

Most of the Essen city centre is a pedestrian zone with over 800 stores and shops offering a great variety of goods like bookstores, boutiques, groceries and department stores. Of course, there are also lots of shops and some pedestrian zones in the other districts like Rüttenscheid, Bredeney or Werden with their unique ambience.

Department stores: There are two large stores in Essen: Karstadt [near the university, tram U11, Station: Berliner Platz] and Kaufhof [near the main station Essen Hauptbahnhof, in the pedestrian zone].

Bookstores: Near the university is the Heyne-Buchhandlung that offers mainly scientific books. Along the pedestrian zone are several bookstores. The most famous one is Baedeker [Kettwiger Str. 35, near the main station]. The building contains 4 sales floors where you can get books of any category (just a small section of english written books).

Office supplies, presentation material: Opposite of the Mensa and the AUDIMAX are several copy-shops offering office supplies. Also the department store Karstadt offers this kind of stuff.

Shopping and strolling areas:

In Essen mostly the pedestrian areas are made for strolling, browsing in shops and eating in small cafes or restaurants.

City centre pedestrian zone: A large area with lots of shops and cafes. You could start exploring it beginning at the main station and going down the main street. Or you could start near the university at Karstadt. A specialty of this zone is a roofed part, which contains several small shops and restaurants (Porscheplatz).

Rüttenscheider Straße: A more exclusive zone in the Rüttenscheid district. Here you can visit mostly small restaurants, shops and a little park. The Aalto Theater is also placed here. [tram U11, Stations: Rüttenscheider Stern, Martinstraße]

Werden: Werden is a district near the lake Baldeney including an exclusive scenic pedestrian zone. Here you can visit an old church, lots of cafes and some restaurants. [train S6, Station: Werden]

Restaurants:

Essen provides a lot of different restaurants of all nations and sizes. Here we have chosen some restaurants that are near the city centre, in Rüttenscheid or Essen Süd, so you can reach them quite comfortable by bus or tram. All of them offer dining and some of them are a good choice for lunch. The information below are collected from several restaurant guides and extended with personal experiences.

Maredo: Essen's most famous steak restaurant (expensive). [city centre, Kapuzinergasse 9, (02 01)227822]

Bonne Auberge: An exclusive restaurant (even if you don't see it from the outside), mostly French cooking. [Rüttenscheid, Witteringstr. 92, (02 01) 78 39 99]

Emile: A small nice and inexpensive Italian restaurant. [Rüttenscheid, Emilienstr. 2, (02 01) 79 13 18]

LA Grappa: A very exclusive (and expensive) Italian restaurant near the main station. [city centre, Rellinghauserstr. 4, (02 01) 23 17 66]

Sheraton: Exclusive hotel restaurant [city centre, Hyssenallee 55, (02 01) 1 00 70]

Ampütte: Inexpensive German restaurant, opening time up to 4.00 a.m. (therefore often visited by students) [Rüttenscheid, Karstr. 1, (02 01) 77 55 72]

Big Easy: American style restaurant near the University, cooking is a little bit French style, sometimes live-music. [city centre, Viehofer Platz 2, (02 01) 20 28 28]

Café Lisboa: Portuguese restaurant near the university, a meeting place for former students. [city centre, Segerothstr. 119, (02 01) 8 31 59 95]

MongoS: A very good Asian restaurant with buffet, reservation needed. [city centre, Altendorferstr. 3, (02 01) 1 09 59 86]

Stop Club Vis-à-vis: French restaurant, mostly fish meals. [city centre, Schmiedestr. 5, 02 01) 23 54 53]

Seri Thai: Bar and Thai restaurant [city centre, Ribbeckstr. 50, (01 73) 8 00 53 57]

Schote: International restaurant, mostly visited by business people. [city centre, Emmastr. 25, (02 01) 78 01 07]

Sala Dolores: Mexican restaurant, sometimes live music, beside a main street. [Rüttenscheid, Alfredstr. 56, (02 01) 77 00 11]

Samba Brasil: Brazilian restaurant, bar and disco on two floors. [Rüttenscheid, Friederikenstr. 34, (02 01) 77 00 11]

Europa Haus: International restaurant near the Grillo Theater. [city centre, Kennedyplatz 7, (02 01) 8 20 40 90]

Zodiak: A vegetarian restaurant with a little bit esoteric ambience. [Rüttenscheid, Witteringstr. 41, (02 01) 77 12 12]

Bars, pubs and beer-gardens:

Rüttenscheider Hausbrauerei: A very good beer garden where own brewed beer is served. [tram U11, Station: Martinstr. and 5 minutes walking, Rüttenscheid, Girardetstr. 2, (02 01) 79 00 60]

Bahnhof Süd: Small inexpensive pub and beer garden next to the train station. [Essen-Süd, Rellinghauserstr. 175, (02 01) 23 65 75]

Cinemaxx Circle: Next to the Cinemaxx there are some nice bars like for example the cocktail bar Melrose Place. [city centre, Berliner Platz 5, (02 01) 22 20 24]

Salzmarkt: Some pubs around a place with the possibility to sit outside. Here you can visit (student) pubs like the Temple Bar or more expensive ones like the Extrablatt. [city centre, Salzmarkt 1, (02 01) 2 43 71 84 (temple bar phone number)]

Nord: A students' pub with (sometimes very loude) rock and heavy metal music. [city centre, beginning of the pedestrian zone, Viehofer Platz 1 (02 01) 23 12 07]

KKC: The student pub next to the AUDIMAX and below the Mensa (every student knows this place and has been there at least once, some call it their real home...)

Caveat:

I tried to make this brief guide as correct as possible. However, I am not responsible if there have been any changes beyond my control that render my information incorrect.

I encourage you to visit some places I mentioned here and for further information you may view the Location and Tourist information descriptions on our homepage www.re02.org or contact the Tourist-Information person while available at the registration desk. Also keep in mind the usual rules of conduct which apply in any densely populated area on this planet.