





"THE LOWER RHINE DEMANDS TO BE LOOKED AT", SAID HANNS DIETER HÜSCH. "AND THAT'S WHEN THE GREAT LOVE AFFAIR BEGINS. THAT IS THE SECRET OF THE LOWER RHINE. AND ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN TO THE LOWER RHINE, WILL COME BACK AGAIN."



The many faces of Wachtendonk

Modern, yet with protected monuments; exciting yet relaxing; manageably small yet spacious; a cycling paradise and an attraction for boating tourists; beloved home for many and sought-after excursion destination – we are proud of our town and love living here. We're going to show you why on the following pages.

We invite you to get to know the **Municipality of Wachtendonk.** You'll fall in love with it and want to come back again and again. We'll see you in Wachtendonk!

Did you know,

that Wachtendonk, which consists of the village of Wankum and the "town" of Wachtendonk, has ca. 8,400 inhabitants and the population is growing steadily;

that we are part of the **"Historical town and village centres in NRW"** gassociation, since there are more than 120 protected buildings here;

that there are over **80 active clubs** here that offer community and help to shape the life of the town;

that Wachtendonk is a financially healthy municipality and is even debt-free;

that Wachtendonk has been twinned with Acigné in France (Brittany) for 40 years?











Tip "Experience history"

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HISTOR

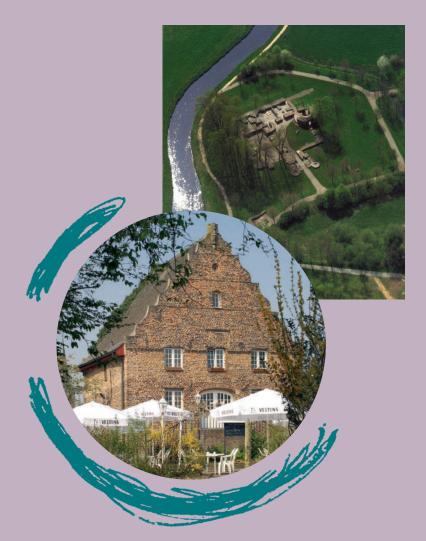
The history of Wachtendonk comes alive on a tour of the municipality. The **tourist information office** offers regular public **tours** through the historic town and village centres, as well as accompanied bike tours of the nearby and more distant surrounding area, setting out from Wachtendonk. The dates are in the municipality's **calendar of events.**

We would also be happy to organise your individual journey of discovery.

Wachtendonk: the fiercely contested fortress on the Niers

If a person who had lived in Wachtendonk 450 years ago could be transported to the here and now by time machine, they would not get lost in their hometown. The layout of the streets has remained the same. Nor have the numerous quaint houses under monument protection changed too much. And that is exactly what gives our municipality its charm and cosy atmosphere.

But Wachtendonk was not always as idyllic as it is today. There is also a rather tumultuous side to its history. The first to arrive here were the Romans, followed by the Franks in the third century and the archbishops of Cologne in the 12th century. The reeves they appointed founded the castle and the town, and claimed dominion



over a territory that was later fought over by the duchies of Guelders and Cleves (Guelders won) and by the Dutch and Spanish in the Eighty Years' War (sometimes the Dutch were victorious, sometimes the Spanish). It was not until 1713 that Wachtendonk was finally given to Prussia as part of the Duchy of Guelder under the Treaty of Utrecht. Then the French interfered again, and Wachtendonk became part of France until Napoleon's abdication, after which it belonged to Prussia until the end of the Second World War.

Incidentally, it was not until the 14th century that Wachtendonk began to be referred to in sources as a "town"; a corresponding document does not exist, however. Officially it was only a town until the French occupation under Napoleon.

In the course of municipal reorganisation in 1969, the present-day municipality of Wachtendonk was formed from what were then the independent municipalities of Wachtendonk and Wankum.



The Peace Agreement in Wankum

Archaeological finds also indicate the presence of Roman settlements in Wankum. The original place name (Wancheim), which is thought to mean a settlement among meadows and pastures, is Franconian.

In the period for which historical documents exist, Wankum belonged to the territory of the Krickenbeck Administration Office in the Duchy of Guelders. It thus shared the fate of Wachtendonk and was administered from there from the 19th century until 1945.

Wankum had already gained nationwide importance when it was first mentioned in 1279, when general peace was declared by the rulers between the Rhine and the Scheldt rivers, guaranteeing few years of security in the feud-torn Lower Rhine region.

The village of Wankum is a typical one-street village with the church as the central point; the old church, which was demolished in 1906, stood almost opposite the current one. At that time, the village had around 100 households, whose members almost all worked in agriculture. But most of them also had another trade as a secondary means of support. The combination of agriculture, tailoring, washing, and ironing makes it clear that it was not only the "heads of the household" who worked here.

Around the village, several forms of settlement developed in the various farming communities due to the landscape conditions. Particular attractions here include the aristocratic estates, Haus Ingenraedt and Haus Langenfeld, with structures dating back to the early 16th century.

Even today you can still experience the history of Wankum in the local museum in the **Dorfstube**.







Discover Wachtendonk by bike

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"Views of the water and plenty of greenery" await you on a 24 km-long cycling tour, which leads around Wachtendonk and Wankum. Cross the river Niers on our AIWA ferry and enjoy the magnificent views of the Niers, the Nette, the brook, and the lake.

Want to find out more? The **tourist information** centre has these and plenty of other route suggestions for you in Haus Püllen. You can also find suggestions on the **municipality website**.

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ANDSCAPE







"Really really beautiful"

Looking for the "typical Lower Rhine"? Then you've come to the right place in Wachtendonk! Over an area of 48 km2, you'll find gnarled pollarded willows, fertile fields, lush green meadows, two lovely rivers (the Niers and the Nette), which meander through the flat landscape, a magnificent blue lake, forest, and heathland. The municipality of Wachtendonk, located near the Dutch border, is part of the 435 km² **Schwalm-Nette Nature Park**, a place dedicated to recreation in nature, the protection of valuable habitats, and nature studies education.

Whether on foot, by bike, or by paddleboat – if you like being outdoors in nature, you'll feel at home here. You can perfectly combine enjoying nature and leisure activities. Some of the 250 orchid species found in Europe bloom on the Wankum heath between May and the end of August.

A herd of wild horses (Koniks) graze in the area. The nature park invites you to "experience nature with all your senses" and there is a **nature park centre** for visitors in Haus Püllen in Wachtendonk. The activities on offer range from exhibitions and lectures to cycling tours and hiking to workshops. You can also visit a cottage garden with a rich variety of species.

There is an interactive table in the exhibition where you can immerse yourself in the world of both still and running water in the nature park. There are also games available on the table.

"WELL GOOD: THE BEAUTY OF THE LOWER RHINE, I ALWAYS THINK, IS NOT THE KIND OF THING WHERE YOU THINK, GOD, THAT WOMAN IS BEAUTIFUL. IT GOES DEEPER."

+

HANNS DIETER HÜSCH













"Plenty to do"

A dedicated book market in the historical centre, concerts, comedy, and milonga in the "Altes Kloster" community centre, a plant swap, walks with the herbalist or organised Segway tours, exhibitions in the Wankum Dorfstube or in the "Altes Wasserwerk", major events at the "Blaue Lagune", traditional club and fraternity celebrations - anything you'd expect on the events programme of a small town, we've got it. We are proud of this variety and diversity. All this is made possible by dedicated associations such as "Wir für Wachtendonk und Wankum", the Wankum heritage association, and the cultural group, and facilities such as the Nature Park Centre and the Tourist Information Centre.

The high number of visitors is also remarkable – crowds come from all over the country and the Netherlands to attend event such as the wine festival with the Wachtendonker Nacht night-time illumination or the castle festival. Whatever you want, we've got it! So have a browse of our **events calendar**, and you're sure to find an event that particularly appeals to you.









"We celebrate"

Spring and Easter market (2nd Sunday before Easter)

Wachtendonk Music Weekend (on a weekend in March or April)

Dance into May in Wankum (30th April)

Summer fair in Wachtendonk (around Corpus Christi)

Summer fair in Wankum (end of June)

Lower Rhine cycling day (1st Sunday in July)

Book market (2nd Sunday in July)

Castle Festival (1st weekend in August)

Jazz & more at the castle ruins in the summer holidays

Sparkassen-Stadtlauf town run in the historic centre (1st Sunday in September)

Wachtendonker Nacht night-time festival and morning glass of wine (2nd Sunday in September)















"What moves us"

As locals of the Lower Rhine region, we are "born in the saddle", so to speak, and prefer to go everywhere by bike. The junction system now makes navigation even easier for every cyclist. E-bikes are also catered for; you'll find **e-bike charging stations**. in various places in the municipality. If you want to get moving in a different way, you're also in just the right place. The vastness of the landscape, criss-crossed by small rivers, with its meadows, forests, moors, and heathlands, is sure to tempt you out for a stroll, walk, or hike. And if you are one of the more than 20 million joggers in Germany, you should definitely pack your running shoes.

This is also a great location for water sports. We explore our local river, the Niers, with canoes and rubber dinghies. In the summer, we like to lie on the beach - on our own beach, mind you. We can do this thanks to the Naturbad Wachtendonk natural outdoor pool and the "Blaue Lagune", a sports and leisure facility in the heart of the idyllic Wankumer Heide woodland area. Ideal for playing, swimming, water skiing, and wakeboarding. If you'd rather stay on land, you can have fun playing beach volleyball or slacklining.

The Lower Rhine offers many different recreational possibilities. You can get tips and suggestions from the Niederrhein Tourismus tourist information centre.









Tours of Wachtendonk

In the south of Wachtendonk, near the castle ruins, a natural paradise awaits. This is also where you'll find the 3.2 kilometrelong and accessible "Wachtendonk Cultural Landscape Adventure Trail", which continues for another eight kilometres in the North.

Want even more? You can find a plethora of maps for ramblers, hikers, and walkers, at the **tourist information centre** in Haus Püllen and on the **municipality website**.





Our sports clubs

TSV Wachtendonk-Wankum 1910 e.V. (football)

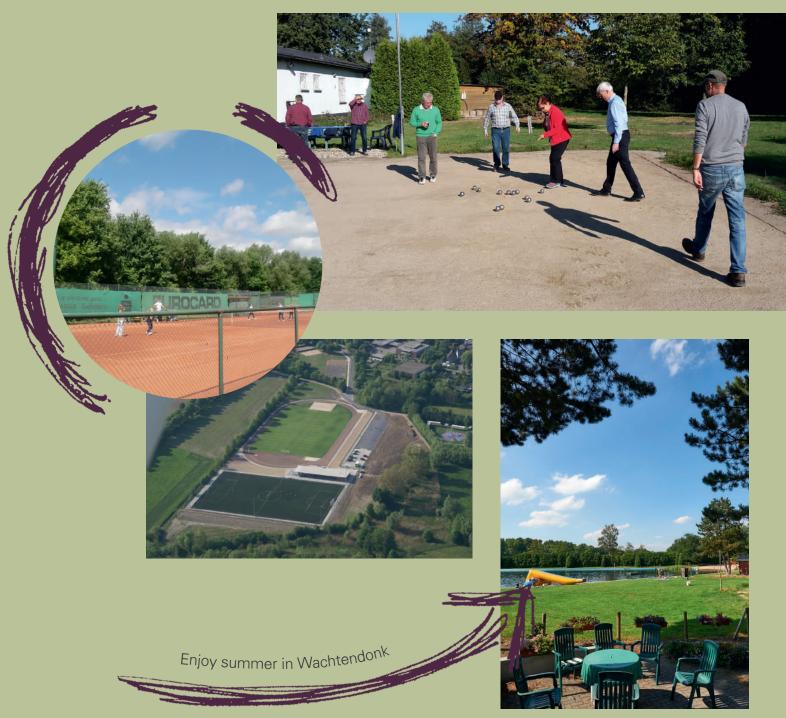
Tennisclub 1978 e.V. (tennis)

Tischtennisclub Straelen-Wachtendonk 1980 e.V. (table tennis)

NiersRunners Wachtendonk 2002 e.V.

Reitervereine Jan van Werth 1899 e.V. and Prinz zu Hohenlohe Wankum 1909 e.V. (riding clubs)

Schlittenhunde-Sportverein Wankumer Heide e.V. (sled dog club)





"Entirely to our taste"

Anyone who is visiting the municipality or wants to take a quick break from their tour in Wachtendonk or Wankum can stop in at one of the cafés, one of the bakeries, or at the ice cream parlour. Or find a secluded spot on the banks of the River Niers and go for a picnic. You're also in the right place for a light lunch or abundant evening meal. The only thing you need to do is decide which delicious option you want to try and where.

And if there is a group of you, the **barbecue hut** at the castle ruins is definitely a great option for a longer, sociable stay in the countryside. You can hire it though the **Tourist Information Centre**.

In Wachtendonk, you can enjoy not only fine dining, but also fantastic accommodation. Whether you are visiting friends or relatives,



need somewhere for your mother-in-law to stay, or want to spend your holiday here. From hotels and bed-and-breakfasts to holiday apartments and **holiday motor homes**, you'll find plenty of options for a pleasant, extended stay in Wachtendonk. If you are in a larger group, a stay in the **hay-bed hotel "Dümpenhof"** is a great experience. Too rustic? Then treat yourself to a day (or two...) of **wellness in the "Art Spa"** in the middle of the Wachtendonk town centre.

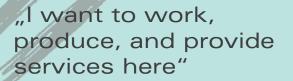
You can find lots of suggestions on the topic of gastronomy and accommodation in our brochure **"Enjoy & Dream"**.











1. The municipality has two junctions with the BAB 40 federal motorway. The neighbouring Netherlands and the Ruhr metropolis are thus quickly and easily accessible.

2. The Düsseldorf and Weeze airports, as well as the largest inland port in the world in Duisburg, are located in a 50 km radius.

3. In addition to good transport links, this also means proximity to suppliers and sales markets.

4. The Rhine and Ruhr metropolitan areas are an enormous commuter belt where companies can find qualified employees.

5. All this is paired with the fantastic living environment of a rural community.

6. If you wish to relocate, you'll find competent contact persons in our **mayor** and **business developer** members of our business-friendly municipal administration.

Doesn't that sound like hitting the jackpot?

Through its own **property development company**, the municipality of Wachtendonk offers attractive commercial premises in the new **Müldersfeld industrial estate**, which can be tailored to suit individual requirements. There are currently still a few vacant plots here ranging from 1,000 m² to 8,000 m² continuous in size. Because the market for handicrafts and other trades in Wachtendonk is not yet fully exploited, you will find an ideal starting basis with favourable conditions for your company here.

GEWERBEGEBIET

ECKERS

MÜLDERSFELD

KOMFORT

In the two completely settled areas "Wachtendonk-Ost" and "Wankum-Grefrather Straße", there is a healthy mix of handicraft enterprises and service providers, markets for large chains and retail stores. However, the fluctuation means that there is always the chance of a commercial property coming up.



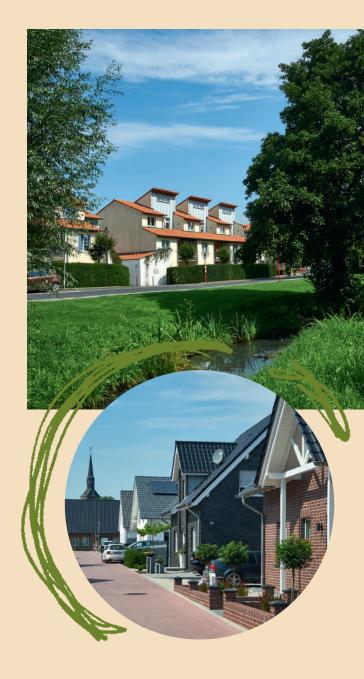


Newcomers are welcome!

From lovingly renovated residential buildings in the protected old town centre, to modern single-family houses in a young settlement, from sprawling estates in the countryside to sheltered accommodation for older people in **homes equipped for disabled people** – there is living space for any taste, requirement, and budget in Wachtendonk and Wankum.

In recent years, several lovely, family-friendly residential areas have been established in both areas: "Schlecker Weg", "Alte Gärtnerei Niersaue", "Am Sportplatz", "Schenkstraße", and "Östlich auf dem Kuckuck".

Our community is a sought-after place to live and plots are allocated quickly. A new housing development is currently under construction on the site of the former sports field in Wankum. Other residential areas are being planned. Interested parties can register with the local government.





"I want to grow old here"

Wachtendonk has been home to the "Haus im Hagenland" - a retirement home run by the KORIAN Group - since June 2010.The home is laid out entirely on the ground floor and is designed to be accessible for people with disabilities. The rooms are pleasant and flooded with light. There are 65 nursing home units (43 single and 11 double rooms) available over a total area of 3,400 m2. The spacious garden is an inviting place to linger when the weather is nice. The residents here live in a pleasant, feel-good atmosphere, not only safe and secure, but also independent.



Kath. Kindertagesstätte St. Marien

Familienzentrum Miteinander

1121





Of interest to young families

Wachtendonk has four kindergartens, including two family centres. There are a sufficient number of spaces available for all age groups.

Each village has its own primary school; the one in Wachtendonk is a shared learning school.

Both primary school sites offer "Open fullday" and "Reliable half-day" care options.

The new secondary school, the Freie Realschule "Weitsicht", will open at the start of the 2020/2021 school year. For more information, please visit www.weitsicht.schule.



INFORMATION AND ADDRESSES

WELCOME

Municipality of Wachtendonk

1 Weinstraße 47669 Wachtendonk www.wachtendonk.de info@wachtendonk.de Tel.: +49 2836 9155-0

Working group "Historic town and village centres in NRW"

www.historische-ortskerne-nrw.de stadtkerne@hso-nrw.de

Clubs

http://bit.ly/VereineinWachtendonkWankum

HISTORY

Tourist Information Centre Haus Püllen 35 Feldstraße 47669 Wachtendonk www.wachtendonk.de tourist-information@wachtendonk.de Tel.: +49 2836 9155-65

Guided tours http://bit.ly/FührungenWachtendonk

Events calendar http://bit.ly/VeranstaltungskalenderWachtendonk

Dorfstube Wankum www.geschichtskreis-wankum.de

LANDSCAPE

Schwalm-Nette Nature Park

www.npsn.de info@naturparkschwalm-nette.de Tel.: +49 2162 81709-408

Natural Park Centre Haus Püllen

www.npsn.de wachtendonk@naturparkschwalm-nette.de Tel.: +49 2162 81709-430

EVENTS AND CULTURE "Blaue Lagune" holiday park

www.blaue-lagune.de info@blaue-lagune.de Tel.: +49 2839 277

Wir für Wachtendonk und Wankum e.V.

www.werbegemeinschaft-wawa.de info@werbegemeinschaft-wawa.de Tel.: +49 2836 9155-66

Wankum Heritage Association and Wankum History Group

www.geschichtskreis-wankum.de e-p.runge@unitybox.de k-druyen@t-online.de

Kulturkreis Wachtendonk e. V. (Culture Group)

www.kulturkreis-wachtendonk.de kulturkreis@wachtendonk.de Tel.: +49 2836 9155-29

SPORTS AND LEISURE

E-bike charging stations: Zweirad "Schrader", Friedensplatz 2 Vinothek-Bistro-Feinkost Zum Schwan, Bruchstraße 1 Bäckerei & Café Flocken, Landfriedensstraße 29 Café Kälberstall, Kusenweg 2 Ristorante Pulverturm da Francesco, Am Pulverturm 12 Hotel Wachtendonker Hof, Kempener Straße 1

Wachtendonk natural outdoor pool

www.naturbadwachtendonk.de info@svnaturbad.de Tel.: +49 2836 85233

Niederrhein Tourismus GmbH

www.niederrhein-tourismus.de info@niederrhein-tourismus.de Tel.: +49 2162 817903

GASTRONOMY AND ACCOMMODATION Barbecue hut

http://bit.ly/GrillhütteWachtendonk

Holiday motorhome pitches http://bit.ly/ReisemobilstellplatzWachtendonk

Dümpenhof hay-bed hotel

www.heuhotel-duempenhof.de info@heuhotel-duempenhof.de Tel.: +49 2836 1672

Wellness Art Spa

www.art-spa.eu info@art-spa.eu Tel.: +49 2836 911393

"Enjoy & Dream" brochure Available in the tourist information centre in Haus Püllen

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY Müldersfeld industrial estate and Business and

Housing contact person

www.gewerbegebiet-mueldersfeld.de franz-josef.delbeck@wachtendonk.de Tel.: +49 2836 9155-31

HOUSING "Haus im Hagenland"

CURANUM Betriebs GmbH Mitte

http://bit.ly/SeniorenresidenzWachtendonk

Wachtendonk



General transport links



Town centre navigation

GEMEINDE Wachtendonk

Photo credits

Publisher

Implementation Municipality of Wachtendonk www.con-vergence.de



-ast updated 03/2020

Pages 5, 13: Erik-Jan Ouwekerk | Pages 2, 26, 27, 28, 32: Heike Goertz-Liedtke | Page 11: Schwalm-Nette Nature Park

www.wachtendonk.de