

## Life



Swan Castle is the landmark of Kleve, which the citizens of Kleve fondly like to keep always in view. Sounds old-fashioned? In this case, however, it is totally “trendy”. The Kleve Harbor Beach Bar has offered for two years a tropical feeling with a hometown panorama.

Whether a cocktail or a dark beer – those planning an evening out are spoilt for choice, yet must bear the anguish of choice. Rock music by Go-Music Line-up in Café Country, blues, folk and rock concerts of the Society Sound Factory, jazz in Central Café, world music or the concerts of a special array by the city of Kleve. Or simply dancing the tension of the week away in Night Theatre, Night Fever, or Wheel Well.

And then there are still the annual Open-Air-Highlights such as “Summer Open Air” in the courtyard of the castle, the Festival Courage, the Festival of Lights in the park, and so on and so forth...

By the way: those wanting to see the “big names” need only to go a few kilometers across the border. In Goffertpark in Nijmegen or in Gelredome in Arnheim is an endless coming and going of the likes of Lenny Krawitz, the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, the Rolling Stones or Tina Turner. (more below under Surrounding Area)

Restaurants: 32, taverns: 24, cafés: 26, discotheques: 4

And he who feel relaxed and comfortable will probably also like to consume. Kleve confirms with a centrality ratio of 154.5 (2008) that offerings and ambience matter. This is documented by the results of a BAG survey (2004) in which way above 80 percent of the respondents indicated that they were satisfied and happy with the supply and purchase environment.

Much has changed in Kleve in recent years. Street routes were changed to achieve better availability, public transport was newly structured and completely new places of interest were created, such as the Koekkoek square with its watercourses and fountains complementing the urban designs of Kleve with a particularly delightful feature. The old moat zone was incorporated, providing the small but fine business area “Kavarinerstrasse” an incomparable entrée.

Fortunately, vacancy has been kept well within limits – and where it appears, it is creatively dealt with. Organized by City Marketing, ARTORT has for five years been the link for local art exhibitions, happenings and utilization of vacancies.

Sundays open for business: 4, organizer: KleveCityNetwork

“Thousands of people come to see this place and must commend the same.” So described Prince Moritz of Nassau-Siegen in 1656 the health resort Kleve in a letter to the electoral princes.

The wellspring of the city spa may be dried up, but not the flow of visitors. Kleve has been successful in many respects in the bonding of history and modern development. This may certainly be found in the special charm cast over the city by the Swan Castle. Visitors and citizens can appreciate the experiences of nature and culture without losing the benefits of a modern downtown.

For many centuries Kleve has been the cultural heart and the administrative center of the bottom portion of the Lower Rhine. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century urban structures of unique quality were built here under Prince Johann Moritz of Nassau-Siegen. While the core of the city preserved essentially its medieval character, a large virtual network of parks, alleys and visual axes evolved around the center that integrate urban space with the surrounding landscape. This exceptional urban situation remains visible and appreciable even after the Second World War and after the necessary reorganization that followed.

Population: 49,712 (March 2009), city districts: 9, land area: 9,779 hectares of which 2,218 are woodlands

## Work

Kleve offers its citizens around 20,000 places of employment. Agriculture and forestry account for 1%, the manufacturing industry for 17.6%, trade and transport for 19.4% and other sectors of the economy for 62%, whereas public authorities and administrations make up a large proportion of these.

Industries with more than 30 employees provide a quarter of the jobs. The vast majority of employees work in small and medium-sized enterprises.

The comprehensive and high-value, high-quality offerings of the Kleve retailers ensure that the city has access to an extensive area of commercial influence – even into the Netherlands. Sufficient parking lots and parking houses are available at a very moderate cost. The image of Kleve as a shopping and cultural city reaches far beyond the borders of the region.

Retail establishments: 454, retail space: 123,230 square meters, sales: €379,6 million

As the county capital and thus the seat of many public authorities and associations, the services sector is more strongly represented when compared to that of other communities. Over one third of all employees are active in the services sector. The largest employer is the St. Antonius Hospital with 367 beds in 9 major departments.

An extremely important factor about the Kleve location is the network of industry and science as well as research and development. To support structural changes the Kleve Technology Center was built in 1987. First and foremost a base was created here for small and medium-sized technical and service based businesses. Up to the present date 125 companies with 400 employees have been successfully advised and accompanied.

Workers subject to social insurance contributions: 15,761, unemployment rate: 7.4%, purchasing power ratio: 94.1 per inhabitant.

Downstream on the Rhine the gateway is opened in the Netherlands in Arnhem and Nijmegen to one of the most lucrative European markets with a potential of 14 million consumers. Upstream on the Rhine is located the largest European agglomeration area between Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Cologne and Dortmund with 10 million inhabitants practically on the doorstep. Both areas are at the same time the home of many large and small suppliers. They provide all required services, such as commodities (coal, gas, oil, etc.) and attractive export connections to the whole world (transoceanic ports).

In accordance with municipal reorganization, new spacious residential, industrial and commercial areas were set up on 97 square kilometers. These meet all requirements. Within the European market, the Kleve location offers significant benefits. Approximately 400,000 people live within commuting distance. A perceptible position on the lower portion of the Lower Rhine in the territory of the Euregio Rhine Waal. Directly on the major European development axis between Rotterdam and Basel. Short and low-cost connections to producers and consumers are guaranteed.

## Study

Kleve is to be the main site of Rhine Waal University of Applied Sciences, as decided by the Cabinet in Düsseldorf on 27. November 2008. The \$130 million project is being built on a four-hectare area next to the Kleve Harbor.

The Harbor, at Bundeswasserstraße 1<sup>st</sup> Order, was in earlier times the trading center for the goods of Kleve's significant foodstuffs industry. Today the artists have taken over the old manufacturing buildings of XOX and Bendsorp. The starting point of the trolley handcars and the beach bar attract no longer harbor workers but harbor lovers to the heritage-protected grounds around the large granary. In this environment, university students will soon multiply their knowledge.

In Kleve and in the secondary site of Kamp-Lintfort, 2500 young people shall study agricultural science, computer science, engineering, economics and much more. Profile defining will be courses of study such as mechatronics, logistics and agribusiness. Including the professors, 200 jobs will be created.

Those who study or teach in Kleve should also be able to live here too. The selection is large – detached villas, townhouses, apartments, studios, furnished rooms – and will surely be further enlarged with more possibilities during the establishment of the university.

For information about vacant dwelling places it is best to consult on location the two daily newspapers: RP and NRZ, or one of the local weekly publications such as the Klever Wochenblatt.

Antenne Niederrhein is the radio station for the region, and the web pages of Kle-point disclose who was again with whom at which party and ...

## Recreation

Of course, the “Fiets” is for residents as well as for visitors on the Lower Rhine one of the most popular means of transport. But in the meantime also “new” sport disciplines such as Nordic walking have been added to the list of tourist attractions. A certified Nature.Fitness.Park with 11 routes was opened in 2005.

Much mention is found in the “Scene” about the mobile home parking bays along the water with a view of the castle and the 3-minute walk to the city. Especially on long weekends, the parking area is bursting at the seams. As a transitory port, the Kleve Harbor offers free mooring to the shipmasters of the inland seas.

Since 2008 the highlight of the harbor ensemble is the starting point of the Borderland Trolley. Beyond the old railway bridge awaits families, clubs and communities an incomparable experience of routes and landscapes.

What is the point? Fitness alone or in a group? A “fun” type of sport or a “classic” one? How about floating around in a hot-air balloon or going diving, skating or skateboarding, canoeing, kayaking or paddling? Countless Kleve clubs offer activities and community events.

From the “Rhine Shore Sport Fishing Club” to “ZS Brienen”, all associations are found here at one glance.

For centuries, Kleve is the artistic center of the Lower Rhine. From architectural garden art and the art collection activities of Maurice of Nassau-Siegen to the woodcrafts of Dries Holthuys, from Ewald Mataré to Joseph Beuys, the world-famous son of Kleve, the artistic range is without equal.

Where spa guests 100 years ago were looking after their physical well-being, art lovers today look to find cultural stimulation. The Museum Kleve Spa House is well-known far beyond the borders of the city and was awarded in 2004 the distinction “Museum of the Year” for its consistent quality exhibitions. The underpinning base of the Spa House is the collection of the great Rhinelander artist Ewald Mataré. In addition to contemporary art, Kleve is also the hometown of a distinguished Lower Rhinelander of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Barend Cornelius Koekkoek. His former residential house was converted into the Museum B.C. Koekkoek House and exhibits both his and his students’ art works.

## Surrounding Area

It is only 100 kilometers from here to the sea. Water rats, however, are much closer to their pleasure in the recreational swimming pool at Sternbush or in the lake at Goch Ness.

After a small bike ride on the dike one can make contact with Dutch bathing beauties in Ortjeshecken. Generally speaking, one is quickly among his neighbors. And since a long time, this is not just to buy coffee and cigarettes, but also to “lekker fietsen”, “moij winkelen” and “rustig een biertje drinken”. Nijmegen and Arnhem, both student cities, are popular as excursion destinations because of their young effervescence. But, of course, the German side also offers cheerful leisure relaxation.

Perhaps to see Kleve on the map might lead one to believe we are far off the beaten path, but that is vastly misleading. We are right in the thick of things – in the economy, in

culture, in life. Each village still has its church steeple but we learned long ago to look beyond this, as a city, as a county and as a region. And because, since the time of the dukes, the citizens of Kleve are at home throughout the world, we maintain partnerships with Worcester, Fitchburg and Ronse.