

# Koblenz

**Koblenz** (German: [ˈkoːblɛnts] listen<sup>ⓘ</sup>; French: *Coblence*), spelled **Coblentz**<sup>[2]</sup> before 1926, is a German city situated on both banks of the Rhine where it is joined by the Moselle.

Koblenz was established as a Roman military post by Drusus around 8 B.C. Its name originates in the Latin *(ad) cōnfluentēs*, meaning "(at the) confluence"<sup>[3]</sup> of the two rivers. The actual confluence is today known as the "German Corner", a symbol of German reunification that features an equestrian statue of Emperor William I. The city celebrated its 2000th anniversary in 1992.

After Mainz and Ludwigshafen am Rhein, it is the third-largest city in Rhineland-Palatinate with a population of around 112,000 (2015). Koblenz lies in the Rhineland.

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Flag



Coat of arms

### Location of Koblenz in Rhineland-Palatinate [show]



Around 1000 BC, early fortifications were erected on the Festung Ehrenbreitstein hill on the opposite side of the Moselle. In 55 BC, Roman troops commanded by Julius Caesar reached the Rhine and built a bridge between Koblenz and Andernach. About 9 BC, the "*Castellum apud Confluentes*", was one of the military posts established by Drusus.

Remains of a large bridge built in 49 AD by the Romans are still visible. The Romans built two castles as protection for the bridge, one in 9 AD and another in the 2nd century, the latter being destroyed by the Franks in 259. North of Koblenz was a temple of Mercury and Rosmerta (a Gallo-Roman deity), which remained in use up to the 5th century

## Middle Ages

With the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the city was conquered by the Franks and became a royal seat. After the division of Charlemagne's empire, it was included in the lands of his son Louis the Pious (814). In 837, it was assigned to Charles the Bald, and a few years later it was here that Carolingian heirs discussed what was to become the Treaty of Verdun (843), by which the city became part of Lotharingia under Lothair I. In 860 and 922, Koblenz was the scene of ecclesiastical synods. At the first synod, held in the Liebfrauenkirche, the reconciliation of Louis the German with his half-brother Charles the Bald took place. The city was sacked and destroyed by the Norsemen in 882. In 925, it became part of the eastern German Kingdom, later the Holy Roman Empire

In 1018, the city was given by the emperor Henry II to the archbishop-elect of Trier after receiving a charter. It remained in the possession of his successors until the end of the 18th century, having been their main residence since the 17th century. Emperor Conrad II was elected here in 1138. In 1198, the battle between Philip of Swabia and Otto IV took place nearby. In 1216, prince-bishop Theoderich von Wied donated part of the lands of the basilica and the hospital to the Teutonic Knights, which later became the *Deutsches Eck*.

In 1249–1254, Koblenz was given new walls by Archbishop Arnold II of Isenburg; and it was partly to overawe the turbulent citizens that successive archbishops built and strengthened the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein that still dominates the city

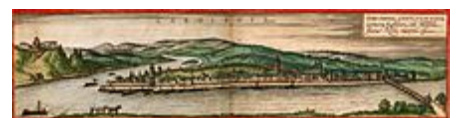
## Modern era

The city was a member of the league of the Rhenish cities which rose in the 13th century. The Teutonic Knights founded the Bailiwick of Koblenz in or around 1231. Koblenz attained great prosperity and it continued to advance until the disaster of the Thirty Years' War brought about a rapid decline. After Philip Christopher, elector of Trier, surrendered Ehrenbreitstein to the French, the city received an imperial garrison in 1632. However, this force was soon expelled by the Swedes, who in their turn handed the city over again to the French. Imperial forces finally succeeded in retaking it by storm in 1636.



Coordinates: 50°21′35″N 7°35′52″E﻿ / ﻿

<b>Country</b>	Germany
<b>State</b>	Rhineland-Palatinate
<b>District</b>	Urban district
<b>Government</b>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Lord Mayor	David Langner (SPD)
<b>Area</b>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	105.02 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> (40.55 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi)
<b>Elevation</b>	64.7 <span> </span> m (212.3 <span> </span> ft)
<b>Population</b> (2017-12-31) <sup>[1]</sup>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	113,844
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Density	1,100/km <sup>2</sup> (2,800/sq <span> </span> mi)
<b>Time zone</b>	CET/CEST (UTC+1/+2)
<b>Postal codes</b>	56001–56077
<b>Dialling codes</b>	0261
<b>Vehicle registration</b>	KO
<b>Website</b>	koblenz.de



Koblenz in the 16th century

In 1688, Koblenz was besieged by the French under Marshal de Boufflers, but they only succeeded in bombing the Old City (*Altstadt*) into ruins, destroying among other buildings the Old Merchants' Hall (*Kaufhaus*), which was restored in its present form in 1725. The city was the residence of the archbishop-electors of Trier from 1690 to 1801.

In 1786, the last archbishop-elect of Trier, Clemens Wenceslaus of Saxony, greatly assisted the extension and improvement of the city, turning the Ehrenbreitstein into a magnificent baroque palace. After the fall of the Bastille in 1789, the city became, through the invitation of the archbishop-elect's chief minister, Ferdinand Freiherr von Duminique, one of the principal rendezvous points for French émigrés. The



Palace of the archbishop-electors of Trier.



Map of the Koblenz region.



Fortress (Festung) Ehrenbreitstein in the background.

archbishop-elect approved of this because he was the uncle of the persecuted king of France, Louis XVI. Among the many royalist French refugees who flooded into the city were Louis XVI's two younger brothers, the Comte de Provence and the Comte d'Artois. In addition, Louis XVI's cousin, Prince Louis Joseph de Bourbon, prince de Condé, arrived and formed an army of young aristocrats willing to fight the French Revolution and restore the Ancien Régime. The Army of Condé joined with an allied army of Prussian and Austrian soldiers led by Duke Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand of Brunswick in an unsuccessful invasion of France in 1792. This drew down the wrath of the First French Republic on the archbishop-elect; in 1794, Coblenz was taken by the French Revolutionary army under Marceau (who was killed during the siege), and, after the signing of the Treaty of Lunéville (1801) it was made the capital of the new French département of Rhin-et-Moselle. In 1814, it was occupied by the Russians. The Congress of Vienna assigned the city to Prussia, and in 1822, it was made the seat of government for the Prussian Rhine Province.



Josef Friedrich Matthesin 1923 in Koblenz during the short lived Rhenish Republic



Since 2010 the Koblenz cable car has been Germany's biggest aerial tramway

After World War I, France occupied the area once again. In defiance of the French, the German populace of the city insisted on using the more German spelling of **Koblenz** after 1926. During World War II it was the location of the command of German Army Group B and like many other German cities, it was heavily bombed and rebuilt afterwards. Between 1947 and 1950, it served as the seat of government of Rhineland-Palatinate

The Rhine Gorge was declared a World Heritage Site in 2002, with Koblenz marking the northern end.





Fortress Ehrenbreitstein as seen from Koblenz.



HDR Panorama of Koblenz from Metternich.

## Main sights

### Fortified cities

Its defensive works are extensive, and consist of strong forts crowning the hills encircling the city to the west, and the citadel of Ehrenbreitstein on the opposite bank of the Rhine. The old city was triangular in shape, two sides being bounded by the Rhine and Mosel and the third by a line of fortifications. The latter were razed in 1890, and the city was permitted to expand in this direction. The Koblenz Hauptbahnhof (central station) was built on a spacious site outside the former walls at the junction of the Cologne-Mainz railway and the strategic Metz-Berlin line. In April 2011 Koblenz-Stadtmitte station was opened in the inner city to coincide with the opening of the Federal Garden Show 2011. The Rhine is crossed by the Pfaffendorf Bridge, originally the location of a rail bridge, but now a road bridge and, a mile south of city, by the Horchheim Railway Bridge, consisting of two wide and lofty spans carrying the Lahn Valley Railway, part of the Berlin railway referred to above. The Moselle is spanned by a Gothic freestone bridge of 14 arches, erected in 1344, two modern road bridges and also by two railway bridges.

Since 1890, the city has consisted of the Altstadt (old city) and the Neustadt (new city) or Klemenstadt. Of these, the Altstadt is closely built and has only a few fine streets and squares, while the Neustadt possesses numerous broad streets and a handsome frontage along the Rhine.

### Other sights

In the more ancient part of Koblenz stand several buildings which have a historical interest. Prominent among these, near the point of confluence of the rivers, is the Basilica of St. Castor or Kastorkirche, dedicated to Castor of Karden, with four towers. The church was founded in 836 by Louis the

#### Largest groups of foreign residents

Nationality	Population (2017)
 Turkey	1,505
 Poland	1,278
 Bulgaria	996
 Romania	780
 Ukraine	627
 Italy	613
 Russia	600
 Syria	595



Basilica of St. Castor

Pious, but the present Romanesque building was completed in 1208, the Gothic vaulted roof dating from 1498. In front of the church of Saint Castor stands a fountain, erected by the French in 1812, with an inscription to commemorate Napoleon's invasion of Russia. Not long after, Russian troops occupied Koblenz; and St. Priest, their commander, added in irony these words: "Vu et approuvé par nous, Commandant russe de la Ville de Coblenz: Janvier 1er, 1814."

In this quarter of the city too, is the Liebfrauenkirche, a fine church (nave 1250, choir 1404–1431) with lofty late Romanesque towers; the castle of the electors of Trier, erected in 1280, which now contains the municipal picture gallery; and the family house of the Metternichs, where Prince Metternich, the Austrian statesman, was born in 1773. Also notable is the church of St. Florian, with a two towers façade from c. 1110.

The former Jesuit College is a Baroque edifice by J.C. Sebastiani (1694–1698) serves as the current City Hall.

Near Koblenz is the Lahneck Castle near Lahnstein, open to visitors from 1 April to 31 October.

The city is close to the Bronze Age earthworks at Goloring, a possible Urnfield calendar constructed some 3000 years ago.

## Electoral palace

In the modern part of the city lies the palace (*Residenzschloss*), with one front looking towards the Rhine, the other into the Neustadt. It was built in 1778–1786 by Clemens Wenceslaus, the last elector of Trier, following a design by the French architect P.M. d'Ixnard. In 1833, the palace was used as a barracks, and became a terminal post for the optical telecommunications system that originated in Potsdam. Today, the elector's former palace is a museum. Among other exhibits, it contains some Gobelin tapestries. From it some gardens and promenades (Kaiserin Augusta Anlagen) stretch along the bank of the Rhine, and in them is a memorial to the poet Max von Schenkendorf. A statue to the empress Augusta, whose favourite residence was Coblenz, stands in the Luisenplatz.

## William I monument

The Teutonic Knights were given an area for their Deutschherrenhaus Bailiwick right at the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel, which became known as *German Corner* (Deutsches Eck).

In 1897, a monument to German Emperor William I of Germany, mounted on a 14-metre-high horse, was inaugurated there by his grandson Wilhelm II. The architect was Bruno Schmitz, who was responsible for a number of nationalistic German monuments and memorials. The *German Corner* is since associated with this monument, the (re) foundation of the German Empire and the German refusal of any French claims to the area, as described in the song "Die Wacht am Rhein" together with the "Wacht am Rhein" called "Niederwalddenkmal" some 30 kilometres (19 miles) upstream.

During World War II, the statue was destroyed by US artillery. The French occupation administration intended the complete destruction of the monument and wanted to replace it with a new one.

In 1953, Bundespräsident Theodor Heuss re-dedicated the monument to German unity, adding the signs of the remaining western federal states as well as the ones of the lost areas in the East. A Flag of Germany has flown there since. The Saarland was added four years later after the population had voted to join Germany



Stolzenfels Castle



US Air Force bombing in 1944



Panoramic View at Koblenz with monument at Deutsches Eck

In the 1980s, a film clip of the monument was often shown on late night TV when the national anthem was played to mark the end of the day, a practise which was discontinued when nonstop broadcasting became common. On 3 October 1990, the very day the former GDR states joined, their signs were added to the monument.

As German unity was considered complete and the areas under Polish administration were ceded to Poland, the monument lost its official active purpose, now only reminding of history. In 1993, the flag was replaced by a copy of the statue, donated by a local couple. The day chosen for the reinstatement of the statue, however, caused controversy as it coincided with Sedantag (Sedan Day) (2 September 1870) a day of celebration remembering Germany's victory over France in the Battle of Sedan.<sup>[4]</sup> The event was widely celebrated from the 1870s until the 1910s.

## Incorporated villages

Formerly separate villages now incorporated into the jurisdiction of the city of Koblenz

Date	Village	Area		Date	Village	Area
1 July 1891	Neuendorf and Lützel	547 hectares (2.1 sq mi)		7 June 1969	Kesselheim	?
1 April 1902	Moselweiß	382 hectares (1.5 sq mi)		7 June 1969	Kapellen-Stolzenfels	?
1 October 1923	Wallersheim	229 hectares (0.88 sq mi)		7 November 1970	Arenberg-Immendorf	?
1 July 1937	Asterstein (part of Pfaffendorf)	?		7 November 1970	<u>Arzheim</u>	487 hectares (1.9 sq mi)
1 July 1937	Ehrenbreitstein	120 hectares (0.46 sq mi)		7 November 1970	Bubenheim	314 hectares (1.2 sq mi)
1 July 1937	Horchheim	772 hectares (3.0 sq mi)		7 November 1970	Güls and Bisholder	?
1 July 1937	Metternich	483 hectares (1.9 sq mi)		7 November 1970	Lay	?
1 July 1937	Niederberg	203 hectares (0.78 sq mi)		7 November 1970	Rübenach	?
1 July 1937	Pfaffendorf and Asterstein	369 hectares (1.4 sq mi)				

## Economy

Koblenz is a principal seat of the Mosel and Rhenish wine trade, and also does a large business in the export of mineral waters. Its manufactures include automotive parts (braking systems – TRW Automotive, gas springs and hydraulic vibration dampers – Stabilus), aluminium coils (Aleris Aluminum), pianos, paper, cardboard, machinery, boats, and barges. Since the 17th century, it has been home to the Königsbacher brewery (the Old Brewery in Koblenz's city centre, and now a plant in Koblenz-Stolzenfels). It is an important transit centre for the Rhine railways and for the Rhine navigation.

The headquarters of the German Army Forces Command is located in the city

Since September 19, 2012 an Amazon logistics centre is in service.<sup>[5]</sup> It is located some 15 kilometres (9 miles) outside the city at the Autobahnkreuz Koblenz.

## Transport

### Roads



To the west of the town is the autobahn A 61, connecting Ludwigshafen and Mönchengladbach, to the north is the east-west running A 48, connecting the A 1, Saarbrücken-Cologne, with the A 3, Frankfurt-Cologne. The city is also on various federal highways 9, 42, 49, 416, 258 and 327. The Glockenberg Tunnel connects the Pfaffendorf Bridge to the B 42. The following bridges cross:

- the Rhine: Bendorf Autobahn Bridge, Pfaffendorf Bridge, Horchheim Rail Bridge, South Bridge
- the Moselle: Balduin Bridge, Mosel Rail Bridge, Europe Bridge, Koblenz Barrage, Kurt-Schumacher Bridge, Güls Rail Bridge

## Railways

*Koblenz Hbf* is an Intercity-Express stop on the West Rhine Railway between Bonn and Mainz and is also served by trains on the East Rhine Railway Wiesbaden–Cologne. Koblenz is the beginning of the Moselle line to Trier (and connecting to Luxemburg and Saarbrücken) and the Lahn Valley Railway to Limburg and Gießen. The other stations in Koblenz are Koblenz-Ehrenbreitstein, Koblenz-Güls, Koblenz-Lützel, Koblenz-Moselweiß and Koblenz Stadtmitte which opened on 14 April 2011.

## Education

The campus Koblenz of University of Koblenz and Landau is located in the city. The University of Applied Sciences Koblenz (German: *Hochschule Koblenz*) is also located in the city.

## Twin towns – sister cities

Koblenz is twinned with:<sup>[6]</sup>

- Nevers, France, since 1963
- Haringey, London, United Kingdom, since 1969
- Norwich, United Kingdom, since 1978
- Maastricht, Netherlands, since 1981
- Novara, Italy, since 1991
- Austin, Texas, United States, since 1992
- Petah Tikva, Israel, since 2000
- Varaždin, Croatia, since 2007

## Popular culture

In Philip Reeve's series *The Mortal Engines Quartet*, Koblenz, as Panzerstadt Koblenz, is a member of the Traktionstadtsgesellschaft a fictional league of German traction cities formed to combat the ruthless advance of the Anti-tractionists thousands of years in the future.

The children's toy yo-yo was nicknamed *de Coblentz* (*Koblenz*) in 18th-century France, referring to the large number of noble French émigrées then living in the city<sup>[7]</sup>

## Notable people

- Cathinka Buchwieser(1789–1828), operatic soprano and actress
- Milo Emil Halbheer(1910–1978), artist



Koblenz, as seen from the International Space Station



Königsbacher brewery



Road map

- Valéry Giscard d'Estaing(1926-), President of France from 1974 to 1981
- Thomas Anders (1963), popular German singer, the lead singer of duo Modern Talking

## References

- This article incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Coblenz". *Encyclopædia Britannica*. **6** (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. pp. 621–622.

## Notes

- ↑ "Bevölkerungsstand 2017 - Gemeindeebene"(<http://www.statistik.rlp.de/de/regional/geowebdienste/bevoelkerung/>) *Statistisches Landesamt Rheinland-Pfalz* (in German). 2018.
- ↑ Other historical spellings include *Covelenz* and *Cobelenz*. In the local dialect the name is *Kowelenz*.
- ↑  Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Coblenz" ([https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911\\_Encyclop%C3%A6dia\\_Britannica/Coblenz](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Coblenz)). *Encyclopædia Britannica* **6** (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. p. 612.
- ↑ Jefferies, Matthew, *Imperial Culture in Germany 1871–1918* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2003)
- ↑ [http://www.rhein-zeitung.de/regionales\\_artikel,-Bei-Amazon-in-Koblenz-arbeiten-bald-3000-Leute-\\_arid,494182.html](http://www.rhein-zeitung.de/regionales_artikel,-Bei-Amazon-in-Koblenz-arbeiten-bald-3000-Leute-_arid,494182.html) (Rhein-Zeitung newspaper in German language)
- ↑ "Städtepartnerschaften von Koblenz"([http://www.koblenz.de/stadtleben\\_kultur/paetnerstaedte.html](http://www.koblenz.de/stadtleben_kultur/paetnerstaedte.html)) (in German). Stadt Koblenz. Retrieved 2015-02-18.
- ↑ "Archived copy" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080513174344/http://www.nationalyoyo.org/museum/generalhistory.htm>). Archived from the original (<http://www.nationalyoyo.org/museum/genealhistory.htm>) on 2008-05-13. Retrieved 2010-01-17. National Yo-Yo Museum, California



Map of railways in greater Koblenz

## Bibliography

## External links

- Official website
- Koblenz City Panoramas– Panoramic views and virtual tours
- Official Town map of Koblenz(needs Java and JavaScript)
- Richard Stillwell, ed.*Princeton Encyclopedia of Classical Sites* 1976: "Ad Confluentes (Koblenz), Germany
- Online Magazin Koblenz

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