

**ROMS  
FLIESENDE  
GRENZEN**



Ministerium für Heimat, Kommunales,  
Bau und Gleichstellung  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



**Archaeological  
Exhibition of North  
Rhine-Westphalia  
September 2021 —  
October 2022**



[www.roemer.nrw](http://www.roemer.nrw)

# INTRODUCTION

## NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA – OUR ROMAN HERITAGE

Since July 2021, the Lower Germanic Limes has been an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It gives me great pleasure to see this occasion being marked by the Lower German Limes taking centre stage at the 2021 / 2022 Archaeological Exhibition of North Rhine-Westphalia, now in its seventh year.

“Rome’s Flowing Frontiers” is a collaboration between the museums of the Rhineland and Westfalen-Lippe Regional Authorities, Lippe Regional Authority and the City of Cologne. Spectacular new finds and the latest archaeological discoveries from the Roman period in North Rhine-Westphalia are on display at five exhibition venues. Interactive displays, digital installations, detailed reconstructions and fun activities provide a vivid picture of everyday life in the Roman provinces and the Barbaricum that lay beyond the frontiers, or Limes, of the Roman Empire. Even the most discerning visitor will be surprised at just how modern Roman life on the Rhine was from today’s perspective.

## THE LOWER GERMANIC LIMES

The Lower German Limes was one of the Roman Empire’s most important border fortifications. It was 400 km long and ran as a river-border from Remagen in Rhineland-Palatinate to Katwijk (Netherlands) on the North Sea. Numerous fortresses, watch-towers and military camps were positioned at regular intervals along the frontier. Over the centuries the cities and diverse cultural landscapes that developed in these places became home to people of very different origins. Today, these cities are known throughout the world and attract visitors of all ages.

The Lower German Limes is part of a continuous transnational border line. Sections of this defence system have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as the “Frontiers of the Roman Empire”. These include Hadrian’s Wall and the Antonine Wall in Britain, and the Upper Germanic Rhaetian Limes in Germany.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has already formally approved the plan to add further

sections of the frontier to the existing World Heritage Sites in Germany, England and Scotland.

The impressive architectural monuments and other remains found along the Lower German Limes pay tribute to a 450-year history. In North Rhine-Westphalia we are proud of this heritage. I am delighted that we can now all explore the historic sites of “Rome’s Flowing Frontiers”, immerse ourselves in the new “roemer.nrw” website and step back in time to discover Roman life in North Rhine-Westphalia. Be part of it!



**Ina Scharrenbach**  
*Minister of Regional Identity, Communities and Local Government, Building and Gender Equality of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia*





# ROME'S FLOWING FRONTIERS

BORDER CROSSINGS ALONG THE "WATER BOUNDARY"

The history of the "water boundary", or Limes, that ran along the Rhine, is more than just the story of a frontier. Initially, the Rhine was simply a transport route. It was the simplest and fastest way to travel and bring supplies to the Roman soldiers. Travelling overland was much more arduous. The Rhine only became a fortified border after the Romans had to withdraw after attempting to advance as far as the Elbe. The province of Lower Germania, or Germania Inferior, featured military camps, settlements, harbours, administrative centres, a densely populated hinterland and an extensive road network.

Nevertheless, the Lower German Limes was anything but impenetrable. Spectacular finds shed light on the magnitude of the exchange of goods and ideas that took place over the 450-year period, both along and across the Rhine. They reveal that the Rhine was much more than a transport route, military frontier and administrative boundary. Along the Rhine, and far beyond it, there was frequent contact between the different cultures. Five themed exhibitions at five different venues invite you to go on a fascinating journey of exploration along "Rome's Flowing Frontiers".

# 5 EXHIBITION VENUES 5 PERSPECTIVES

24 SEP 2021—27 FEB 2022  
**DETMOLD**

30 SEP 2021—16 OCT 2022  
**XANTEN**

25 NOV 2021—29 MAY 2022  
**BONN**

25 MAR 2022—30 OCT 2022  
**HALTERN AM SEE**

29 APR 2022—9 OCT 2022  
**COLOGNE**

Peaceful settlements, armed conflicts and, running through the middle, a frontier. These border fortifications, or Limes, separated the Roman provinces from the Germanic peoples living in the territories east of the Rhine.

The Lippische Landesmuseum in Detmold explores the fascinating stories of the Germanic peoples' relations with the Roman populations living on the other side of the frontier. Stunning archaeological finds take you on a journey back in time, from the early contacts until the fall of the Roman Empire.

BORDER CROSSINGS ALONG THE LIMES

## DETMOLD

24 SEP 2021—  
27 FEB 2022

Lippisches Landesmuseum  
Detmold

Amelde 4 · D-32756 Detmold,  
Germany

[www.lippisches-landesmuseum.de](http://www.lippisches-landesmuseum.de)



THE LOWER RHINE LIMES

# XANTEN

30 SEP 2021—  
16 OCT 2022

Recent archaeological finds have significantly advanced our understanding of the Roman period on the Lower Rhine. These have included tombstones, coin hoards, military sites and shipyards. The remarkable discoveries on display at the LVR Xanten

Archaeological Park and the LVR Roman Museum shed a new light on the daily lives of legionaries, as well as on religious beliefs and life in the civilian settlements on either side of the Limes. In addition to the special exhibition, there is a new themed pavilion dedicated to the Lower German Limes and showcasing reconstructed Roman ships.

LVR-Archäologischer  
Park Xanten /  
LVR-RömerMuseum

Trajanstraße 10 · D-6509 Xanten,  
Germany

[www.apx.lvr.de](http://www.apx.lvr.de)



LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn

Colmantstraße 14-16  
D-53115 Bonn, Germany

[www.landesmuseum-bonn.lvr.de](http://www.landesmuseum-bonn.lvr.de)



LIFE ALONG THE LIMES

# BONN

25 NOV 2021—  
29 MAY 2022

The vibrant and diverse society of the Rhineland was already a melting pot of cultures 2,000 years ago. The LVR State Museum in Bonn celebrates the diversity of the people and cultures along the Lower German Limes. How did the soldiers in the fortress-

es and the people in the civilian settlements organise their domestic and work-related lives? What interactions took place between the people living on either side of the “water boundary”? Fascinating finds and an interactive model of a Limes structure invite you to step back in time and discover more about life along the Lower German Limes.

In the early 1st century AD Roman legionaries attempted to expand the Empire eastwards. They constructed massive military fortifications along the banks of the Lippe – but their success was to be short-lived. The Roman army met with so much resistance from the Ger-

manic tribes that it had to withdraw to the Rhine, which then became the frontier of the Roman Empire. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to explore Roman Westphalia through spectacular new finds, a detailed reconstruction of a guardhouse and a new escape room.

ROME IN WESTPHALIA 2.0

# HALTERN AM SEE

25 MAR 2022—  
30 OCT 2022

LWL-Römermuseum

Weseler Straße 100  
D-45721 Haltern am See,  
Germany

[www.lwl-roemermuseum-haltern.de](http://www.lwl-roemermuseum-haltern.de)



MiQua und das  
Römisch-Germanische  
Museum

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am Neumarkt  
Cäcilienstraße 29-33  
D- 50667 Cologne,  
Germany



ROME ON THE RHINE

# COLOGNE

29 APR 2022—  
9 OCT 2022

The stunning remains uncovered in Cologne, including imperial palaces, temples, city walls, ancient streets and public squares, reflect the city's importance during the Roman period. It was designed to resemble Rome and was

the capital of the Roman province of Lower Germany. Impressive archaeological finds transport you back through the fascinating history of this ancient city and shed light on the daily lives of the people living in "Rome on the Rhine". Digital reconstructions bring them to life more vividly than ever.



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