

The Zollern colliery

A castle of labour

With its magnificent red brick facades and opulent gables the Zollern colliery is one of the finest testimonies to the industrial past in Germany. Because of its out-of-the-ordinary architecture the former colliery in Dortmund has been called a "castle of labour".

Today it is scarcely conceivable that in the 1960s, after the site was closed, there were plans to demolish all the buildings. In the struggle to preserve the site the most important building was the engine house with its impressive **art nouveau entrance**, today an icon of industrial heritage. The preservation of this representative steel and glass building in 1969 not only rescued the whole site. It simultaneously marked the beginning of **industrial monument conservation** in Germany.

Our Museum of Social and Cultural History of Mining in the Ruhrgebiet is all about the magnificence and representative culture of collieries: and also about the world of sweat and tears and the people who worked at the colliery in different periods.

Today the many events at the Zollern colliery also make it a **cultural meeting point** for the whole region. The spectrum ranges from concerts and talks, via markets for garden lovers and art enthusiasts, all the way to tango balls and animal shows.

From a model colliery to a museum

The Zollern colliery was built between 1898 and 1904 as a prestige object by the Gelsenkirchen Bergwerks AG, which, when it was completed, became the **leading mining company on the market**. The elaborate buildings, the social pretensions and the technical innovations in the equipment were all meant to demonstrate the company's power and **representational ambitions**. This "model colliery" was meant to demonstrate status.

After a flourishing start in the late years of the German Empire, decline soon set in. In the mid-1920s the new owners, the United Steel Works AG, foresaw the end of mining on the site. It was only the Second World War and the post-war era which gave the colliery a new boost. But in 1966, following the crisis in the coal industry, the Zollern colliery was closed for good.

It is indisputable that the colliery would have fallen victim to the vogue of demolition in the early years of **structural transformation** had the plans not been met by vehement protests from committed grass-roots opponents. Shortly before excavators arrived on the site to demolish the buildings the site was put under a protection order. Thus the Zollern colliery became the first industrial building in Germany to be awarded the **status of a monument**. In 1981 the LWL integrated Zollern into its State Museum of Industrial Heritage.

Discovering the colliery

People, coalmining and the museum

No other branch of industry has left its mark on people in the Ruhrgebiet as heavily as coalmining. Coal was the vital **elixir** of the Ruhrgebiet. The Zollern colliery is a fascinating example of the rise and fall of the mining industry between the 19th century German Empire and the miracle years of the 1950s, the boom years of industry and the age of structural transformation.

During your tour of the exhibition and buildings you will get to know the different working areas in a coal mine and learn a lot about the **people** behind the company's operations, whether they were managers, trainees, signalmen, engine house workers or forced labourers during the war years.

The exhibition in the old administration building can be experienced with several **senses**. Thanks to a guiding system on the floor, objects, photos, listening stations and information in Braille, blind and partially sighted visitors are able to access the history of the Zollern colliery independently.

We can also give you a closer experience of the **work below the surface**. Try lifting a mechanical pick and you'll soon find out what a collier had to endure for eight hours a day before he went home to tend his garden and see to his animals. In the lamp room you can experience what it meant to work in poorly lit conditions. Other themes covered are mining hazards, work protection and health care.

Bringing your children to the museum

We've a lot to offer you if you're coming with your family - the children can explore the colliery, romp around and play before enjoying a picnic.

Our **playgrounds** can offer everything children need to enjoy a summer outing. Younger children can slide down a miniature winding tower or play around to their hearts content with sand and water. The older ones can let off steam on the ropeway and spiral chute.

Our **mining apprentice, "Franz"** will take them on their own special tour of the museum. He welcomes them at the box office and explains how everything functions, what he is proud of and what makes him afraid. Games, models, and opportunities for active involvement offer an ideal mixture of discovery, learning and looking.

Experiencing the colliery

What we offer

A range of attractive features will make your visit to Zollern an unforgettable experience. A good tip for anyone wanting to show outside visitors this icon of industrial heritage is to take them on one of our free **guided tour on Sundays**. Guided tours of our workers' garden, including sam pies, are highly popular in the summer months. We can also offer **sign language** tours and special guided tours for the partially-sighted.

We can arrange made-to-measure programmes combining learning with fun for **school parties** and children's birthdays. Groups can book individual guided tours on the history of the colliery or other special themes. In addition there are regular open guided tours on special themes like life on the miners' housing estate, the path of coal or forced labour, not forgetting guided tours of **special exhibitions**.

We would be delighted to send you a flyer containing all our offers. You can also get all the information and dates you require at www.lwl-industriemuseum.de.

Culture instead of coal

The "stylish colliery" has now become a cultural **meeting point** for the whole region. It is particularly known for its events like museum nights, concerts and film evenings. Our markets are particularly popular. Every year thousands of visitors flock to our gardening markets, historical fairs and handicraft shows.

Our colliery is equally open to representatives from the world of culture, politics and business as it is to clubs and societies from the region. We can offer facilities for **conferences** and stylish events in rooms with a bygone atmosphere and up-to-date technical equipment. Couples can also get married here.

You can get more information on the Internet. Otherwise simply ask us to send you our **calendar of events** and further information material.

Tips for your day out

In front of the colliery gates

There's also a lot to discover in front of the colliery gates. It's well worth taking a stroll through the old **colliery housing estate** to the spoil tip in the middle of the Dei pen becker Wood nature protection area. A short distance away by foot is Dellwig Mansion, an old aristocratic country seat with a small museum. You can pick up a free map of the immediate vicinity at our box office.

Anchor points along the **Industrial Heritage Trail** can be quickly reached by bike or car. They are the Hansa coking plant and the German Protection at Work Exhibition (DASA) in Dortmund, and the Henrichenburg ship lift in Waltrop. The latter is also one of the sites belonging to the LWL Industrial Museum.

Useful Internet addresses:

www.route-industriekultur.de
www.dortmund-tourismus.de

Why not pay a visit to our museum restaurant? It's in the coach house next to the old horse stable.

The Pferdestall Restaurant

The restaurant can cater for 110 persons, the beer garden for 60

La Trina is a small room catering for groups of up to 50 persons

A-la-carte Westphalian specialities

Special day and seasonal menus

Open: Tue- Sat, 12-22.00, Sundays 11-19.00

Tel: 0231 6903236

Fax: 0231 6903235

E-Mail: info@pferdestall.biz

www.restaurantpferdestall.de

LWL-Industriemuseum

Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Industriekultur

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www.lwl-industriemuseum.de

Opening hours

Tue-Sun 10-18.00. Final admission 17.30

Admission prices*

Adults 4 €

Concessions** 2.50 €

Children, young people (6-17), school students 2 €

School students on a guided tour 1.10 €

Family day ticket 9 €

Groups of 16 persons or more, 3.50 € per person

The LWL Museum Card is available here

*We reserve the right to make changes

** Social Security recipients, students (excepting mature students), apprentices, persons

performing national and civilian service duties, people involved in a voluntary social and ecological annual programme, and handicapped persons from a severity of 80% (accompanying person free of charge)

How to find us

By rail:

Line RB 43 "Emschertalbahn" Dortmund - Dorsten, alight Bëvinghausen:

www.nordwestbahn.de. From here it is 10 minute walk. Leave the platform in the direction of the railway bridge. Turn right on the road into Merklinder Strasse and go straight on for 20 metres. Then go half left through the housing estate: Plutostr., Jupiterstr., Rhader Weg. Then half left over the road into Grubenweg.

By bus:

Line 378, alight "Provinzialstraße", or line 462, alight "Industriemuseum Zollern"

By bike:

Bike trails R 10 and R 31 and the Emscherpark Radweg-Süd

Detailed information for cyclists can be found on our homepage: www.lwindustriemuseum.de