The Zollern colliery
A castle of labour

With its magnificent red brick façades 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 usually considered that the 1890s, after the site was closed, were plans to demolish all the buildings. In the struggle to preserve the site, the most important building was the engine house with its impres- sive art nouveau entrance, today an icon of industrial heritage. The preservation of this representative design and glass building in 1969 not only rescued the whole site, but also 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 magnificent and representa-tive culture of collieries and also about the world of sweat and tears and the people who worked in the Ruhrgebiet 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 halla, via markets for garden lovers and art enthusiasts, all the way to tangos balls and animal shows.

The Zollern colliery

From a model colliery to a museum

The Zollern colliery was built between 1888 and 1904 as a prestige building by the Gelsenkirchen Bergwerksgesellschaft AG, which, when it was completed, became the leading mining company of the market. The elaborate buildings and the technical innovations in the equipment were all meant to demonstrate the company’s power and representational ambitions. This “model colliery”, a meeting to dem-onstrate status.

After building it in the late years of the German Empire and 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 decline of the coal industry, the Zollern colliery was closed for good.

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

Discovering the colliery
People, coaling and the museum

No other branch of industry has left its mark on people in the Ruhrgebiet as heavily as coaling. Coal was the vital elixir of 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, technical specialists, engine house workers or forced labourers during the war years.

The exhibition in the old administration building can be expe-rienced with several seminars. 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 are a lot to offer you if you’re coming with your family – the children can explore the colliery, snork around and play before enjoying a picnic. Our playgrounds can offer everything children need to enjoy a summer outing.

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, snork around and play before enjoying a picnic. Our playgrounds can offer everything children need to enjoy a summer outing.

Younger children can also let off steam before winding tower or play around with mining hazards content with sand and water. The older ones can let off steam on the ropeway and spiral chutes.

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 works, 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 cooking.
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 the industrial heritage is to take them on one of our free guided tours on Sundays.

Guided tours of our working garden, including samples, are highly popular in the summer months. We will also offer sign language tours for the partially-sighted and special guided tours for the partially-sighted.

We can arrange made-to-order programmes combining learning with fun for school parties and children’s birthdays. Groups can book individual guided tours on the history of the colliery and other special themes. In addition, there are regular open guided tours and internal themes like: all on the miners’ housing estate, the path of coal and forest lands, not forgetting guided tours of special exhibitions.

We would be delighted to send you our calendar of events with 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 guided tours of special exhibitions. We would be delighted to send you a free copy of our offers. You can also get all the information and dates you require at www.lwl-industriemuseum.de.

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 Deipper- neder Wood nature protection area. A short distance away from the colliery building, an old anthracite country seat with a small museum. You can pick up a free map of the immediate vicinity at our box office.

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a) Allowing for a severity of 80% (accompanying person free of charge)

b) Social Security recipients, students (excepting school students on a guided tour), school students 2 €

Children, young people (6-17), family day ticket 9 €

Adults 4 €

Concessions** 2.50 €

Why not pay a visit to our museum restaurant? It’s the coach-house next to the old home stable.

The Pferdestall Restaurant

The restaurant can cater for 110 persons, the beer garden for 50.

Lifting in a small room catering for groups of up to 50 persons.

A la carte Westphalian specials.

Special day and seasonal menus.

Open: Tue – Sat, 12 am – 10 pm

Sundays: 11 am – 7 pm

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www.lwl-industriemuseum.de

Contact

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www.lwl-industriemuseum.de

Opening hours

Mon – Sun: 10 am – 5 pm

Final admission 5.30 pm

How to find us

By car (15 minutes from the city centre of Dortmund)

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