The Germheim Glassworks
Art from fire and sand

The art of glassmaking has a long tradition in the River Meuse. Many hand-blown glassworks once produced glass the world marvelled at. The fire has long been quenched in most of them. But at Germheim, we have retained production on an original site especially for our visitors. In the Germheim Glass Glass (1869), one of the last existing sites still in use in Germany, visitors can now watch glassmakers at work with blowpipes, paddles and shears as they conjure glass vessels from a molten mass. Right next door, the glass products are then polished and engraved - also before your eyes.

A large part of the early industrial factory village of Germheim (now part of today’s Meechbergen) has been preserved. This includes the so-called ‘working houses’ in Westphalia, the residence of the former owners and the old kiln-heating shop.

Here, on several different floors, you can find out more about the manufacture of blown glassware and street glass. In addition, you are invited to taste a straw through everyday history - around 2,000 exhibits, from prehistoric jars to magnificent trophies, show all the different types of objects this versatile material was used for.

The Germheim glassworks were founded in 1863 by two merchants from Venlo called Schrader and Limpel. They recruited expert workers from Thurnhàm and Rehme and erected several solarium houses for their families. In the 1870s, the works began to expand. As a result, the owners built an impressive glass dome - based on an English model - to make window panes. The works expanded over the next 100 years, and today it is the largest glass factory in the Meuse Valley. The dome was included in the museum and was restored in 2019.

From a factory to a museum

Our exhibition

Discovering history

Scene 1: Sandwich glass - the raw materials from which glass is made - have remained almost the same throughout history. Often there have been a lot of changes in glass manufacturing. In the last 100 years since the first French glassworks were set up along the River Meuse. We will show you the individual stages of glassmaking from melting the batch right up to the finished product, and will explain the various types of glass and how products are made. In a separate exhibition, you can learn about the history of glass in the Erft Valley.

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Get a feel for history

What we can offer

You can see from the faces of our gunmakers how neatly the work is. You can also try it yourself. Our offer "Gunsmaking on Friday" is just the right solution for anyone wanting to make their first acquaintance with the craft. You can learn the whole process on our seven-day workshop. In addition we also offer intensive courses in association with the local adult education centre, where you can make things like glass pistols, glass marbles and small artwork with freezing glass technique.

You are very welcome to join in as guided tours on every Sunday and public holiday at 1:00. If you are traveling with a group you can put together an individual package for you. We have worked out special programs according to age for school classes and children’s birthdays, which combine both learning and fun. We shall be delighted to send you a flyer with our offers for groups. You can book a list of all our offers on the internet at www.industriemuseum.de. Our museum is mostly barrier-free. Wheelchairs are available for free.

Where the mills are turning

The Kids’ Library "mill dinner" can offer a lot of attractive leisure activities: 36 mills are in action from time to time and other offers and hints are on offer. Our ticket office also sells you a "combination ticket" for the region’s museums, including the Technik Museum in Messer. The Water Cycle Trail passes very close to the museum, and further cycle trails are signposted. Along the Mittelland Canal and the Westerwasser there are a variety of facilities for leisure and boat excursions.

Tips for your day out

Where are the offers turning

Free and drink

There are a number of hotels, cafés and restaurants in Potschappel. We will be delighted to advise you and can send you a list of addresses and telephone numbers on request.

Contact

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E-Mail: info@des-wasserbaukulturzentrum.de
Web: www.industriemuseum.de

How to reach

By car: From the A45 (Magdeburg–Hannover) exit at Oldendorf. From the A7/E50 (Munich–Kiel) exit at Oldendorf. Take the Aumühle exit and follow the signs. In Aumühle, take the second exit to the Kremmen–Hannover road. Follow this road for approx. 1.5 kilometers and turn right into the Museumstrasse.

By train: The Water Cycle Trail and the Stark Fonta path pass quite near the museum. For more comprehensive information, visit our internet page at www.industriemuseum.de.