The Henrichshütte
Hattingen Ironworks

A museum of iron and steel

Sparks were flying for 150 years when the last blast furnaces at the Henrichshütte iron and steel works shut down their mission. Nowadays this unique original site has been revived to give visitors a vivid idea of the history of iron and steel.

Over 10,000 people worked on this industrial site. They produced coke, iron and steel, poured, rolled and forged the metal. In 1867 the last blast furnace in Hattingen was blown out despite massive protests and resistance. Today it is the oldest blast furnace still existing in the Ruhrgebiet and, at the same time, the largest exhibit in the LWL Industrial Museum. A glass lift takes visitors up to the top of the 55 metre furnace. From here visitors can enjoy breath-taking views of past and present features in the region.

The Henrichshütte iron and steel works were the last blast furnaces to be blown out in the Ruhrgebiet region. Over the decades the original foundry grew into a gigantic iron and steel works including the gigantic blast furnace. In 2004 the forge was the last blast furnace still in operation in the region to set up a company for the most essential buildings and their equipment. The plant included the gigantic ore bridge, the blast furnace apparatus and several kilometres of railway tracks and pipelines. Before the steel plant was blown up, the museum took over the converters, the roof models and the castings. In 2004 the roof was the first hot operation to cease work in the old plant. After that medium-sized companies and leisure firms gradually began to take root in the former Henrichshütte Park. Thus the Henrichshütte plant produced a broad spectrum of iron and steel products, from sheet metal for the automobile industry to tank chases. In 1989 the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL) seized the opportunity to turn the whole site into an industrial museum by taking over responsibility for the most essential buildings and their equipment. The plant included the gigantic ore bridge, the blast furnace apparatus and several kilometres of railway tracks and pipelines. From here visitors can enjoy breath-taking views of past and present features in the region.

100 years later a completely new museum dedicated to the history of iron and steel opened to the public. The Henrichshütte Henrichshütten Park now also offers a fascinating guided tour by “Ratty” the museum mascot. Children can test themselves about the answers to these questions. At all the stopping points along Ratty’s path there are niches and helps them answer these questions. Along Ratty’s path they can learn about different historical tools and models to give hands-on activities to grasp of what happens in the steel plant, where the red-hot metal, of a very unique type of worker and a world of steel.

The path of steel

After the plant was closed down the natural world reconquered the disused industrial site according to its own rules. The green path shows you where valid margarines, stinking crabbins, trees of heaven, tacos and butterflies have made their home; which exotic plants arrived in Hattingen as stowaways on raw materials from all over the world, and very peculiar conditions under which they flourish on the Henrichshütte site. The green path is still under construction. In 2004 the forge was the last hot operation to cease work in the old plant. After that medium-sized companies and leisure firms gradually took root in the former Henrichshütte Park. Thus the Henrichshütte plant produced a broad spectrum of iron and steel products, from sheet metal for the automobile industry to tank chases. In 1989 the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL) seized the opportunity to turn the whole site into an industrial museum by taking over responsibility for the most essential buildings and their equipment.

Discovering iron-making

The path of iron

On the path of iron you will follow the flow of material from ore, coke and lime to molten pig iron. The tour leads you through the ore bunkers and up to the top of the blast furnace via a lift. From here you descend step by step down to the casting bay, the heart of the plant, where the blast furnace is converted into ferro-galvanic steel. Here we shall tell you stories of casting, rolling and forging, of the dangerous work with molten metal, of a very unique type of worker and a world of steel.

The green path

No one knows their way around the monuments site as well as our little blue rat. The museum mascot takes children – and not only children – along Ratty’s path and tells them the secrets of steel and iron. Anyone who wishes to ope their treasure trove to get at the valuable industrial objects within will have to put in a bit of effort here. Ratty takes you into the blast furnace? And what comes out? Ratty invites boys and girls to climb into her pipes and niches and helps them answer these questions. At all the stopping points along Ratty’s path there are models and opportunities for hands-on activities to help you to get a better grasp of what happens in a blast furnace. Using the computer game “Ratty at the Blast Furnace” children can test themselves about everything they have learnt along Ratty’s path.

Why not visit our “Henrichs” restaurant.

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Eight Sites – One Museum

Industrial heritage sites.

is an umbrella museum comprising eight different industrial heritage sites. It was set up in 1979 by the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL). It was not only the first museum of its kind in Germany, it is also the largest. Its mission is to communicate, research and preserve the culture of the industrial era from the earliest years to the present day.

Our industrial museum can offer many attractive experiential and learning programmes. The demonstration foundry is the right place for anyone who wants to get an overall experience of working here. Here molten iron and steel is flowing once again, ready for forging. Memories of war and armaments, forced labour and toiling in the air-raid shelter, and 

We have collected the entire museum’s educatio nal programme and guided tours in a special flyer which we shall be delighted to send you upon request. We can also find all our offers and dates on the internet at:

www.lwl-industriemuseum.de

The things are really buzzing here!

This includes Extra Shift, the Long Night of the Industrial Heritage, the „Hüttenzau-

Family Party celebrating the actual „Hüttenlauf“ 
race. The „Hüttenlauf“ offers a guided tour through the entire museum – from our concert and theatre experiences, trade fairs and markets, exhibitions and conferences. Alternatively people come here simply to enjoy the unique atmosphere of the „Hüttenlauf“ restaurant with its huge glass windows.

The ironworks with its imposing relics of industrial heritage sites hosts to major events several times a year.

Tips for a good day out

There’s more to Hattingen than you think. Directly in front of the gates of the LWL-Indus trium you find the most attractive paths for hikers, cyclists and skaters heading through the picturesque Ruhr Valley. You can also experience industrial heritage with our Montan-Ticket which offers vis itors a train trip, a guided tour through the visitor gallery at the Montan-Hütte, along with a visit to a Blast Furnace Demonstration Forge. Alternatively you can climb up to a sky biker and ride along the Ruhr Valley Cycle Trail that links the Henrichshütte site of the LWL-Industriemuseum with the Montan-Hütte in Witten. We can offer cyclists bike garages, lockers, tools and maps.

People who enjoy antique picturesque sun 

roundings should not miss the historic town centre of Hattingen. It is a jewel of half-timbered houses that offers a stroll, for shopping and eating.

Further information on Henrichshütte Marketing Phone: 0049 (0)2324 2179-13

Useful internet addresses:

www.hattingen-marketing.de
www.henrichshuette.de
www.lwl-industriemuseum.de
www.ruhrtalradweg.de

www.facebook.com/LWLIndustrie

Getting here by car: The A 43, exit Witten-Herbede / Hattingen, and follow the “Route Industriekultur” signs to Hattingen. By bus and/or bicycle from Essen Central Station (HS) with bus 118; alight at “Henrichshütte” stop. There the pedestrian bridge leads to the LWL-Industriemuseum. Here take bus C2 or C4 to “Henrichshütte”. Alternatively take bus 310 and alight at “Herbedekirchen”. Easy bike routes are available. By bike it’s 1100 meters away from the Ruhr Valley Cycle Trail. Bike garages are available. Detailed internet information for cyclists can be found at www.lwl-industriemuseum.de

LWL-Industriemuseum

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for the Museum, for Westphalia-Lippe.