The Henrichenburg ship lift

An artificial water channel, the slip lift was opened in 1899. Its main function was to raise ships in the Dortmund-Ems canal. Over years, the ship lift was replaced by a modern one. A model will show you how the ship lift worked. In the historic engine house you will find out how the ships were raised and lowered. The technical secrets behind raising and lowering boats can be experienced.

Our exhibition

Discovering history

Nowadays it is scarcely conceivable that over 100 years ago, in the Dortmund-Ems canal, two of the most important tools used to build the Dortmund-Ems canal were picture and model. The project was an incredible tour de force. Thursdays, when ships were unloaded, it was possible to see up to 40 ships passing through the canal. Modern goods like coal, ore and building materials could now be transported over the canal. The opening of the Dortmund-Ems canal created a new commercial artery for the Ruhrgebiet. The ship lift was a key part of this development.

The Henrichenburg pleasure boat leaves the museum quay for an excursion on the canal. So why not take a trip on the canal?}

Underway with Capt’n Henri

Capt’n Henri and his young ship boy Jan will take young guests on their own special tour. At several stops along the route of the museum ship, the ‘Tour Christian’, you can find out about the business and their families lived on board. Conditions were anything but easy. Boys and girls can go aboard an old barge and test for themselves how boats used to be loaded and unloaded. To name but one example: here the children can find out what life and working conditions were like for a ship’s boy many years ago. Boys and girls can go aboard an old barge and test for themselves how boats used to be loaded and unloaded.

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The LWL-Industriemuseum is an industrial museum comprising eight different industrial heritage sites. It was set up in 1979 by the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL). It is the largest in its kind in Germany, and is one of the largest in the region. Its mission is to conserve objects and preserve the culture of the industrial era from the earliest years to the present day.

Our programme of activities

Why not get yourself fixed up at a ship's barge - or grill? This is just one of many activities we can offer for school parties in children's holidays. A huge number of educational programmes are available for boys and girls from the age of 4 upwards. We advertise them all on the internet, and will also be delighted to send you a flyer on request.

Families who want to explore the museum on their own can pick up discovery material at the box office. Once you have answered all the questions you will be well on your way to earning a ship lift diploma. Do you want to share your findings and solutions? In this case the best solution is to take part in a free guided tour on Sundays at 3 o'clock. If you want to combine culture with food and drink you should hold one of our meeting guided tours which is followed by a meal in a nearby restaurant.

From March to October you can take a trip along the canal on the ‘Henrichenburg’ pleasure boat every day. Departure times and prices can be found at: www.lwl-industriemuseum.de. The museum shop has a rich selection of books — including our museum guide — and gifts related to the theme of water.

Most of the museum site is accessible for wheelchair users. We offer special guided tours for visually handicapped.

Leisure on the canal

The ship lift has long been recognized as a national monument for the region, and a symbol for the region’s maritime history. Major events like the ‘Museum Festival’ and ‘Sail Westfalen’ (the largest sail on industrial heritage sites) are major events. The Henrichenburg is definitely worth a visit. You can find all the dates you require on our website under ‘Annual Events’.

Tips for your day out

You can find all the dates you require on our website under ‘Calendar of Events’.

During the summer season bridge couples can take the level水的历史是奇妙的，但是‘Osterau’。

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