The Zollern colliery
A castle of labour

The Zollern colliery was a large and representative colliery building in Germany. At first sight the colliery buildings are only one of the many facets presented in our exhibitions. This ‘model colliery’ was meant to demonstrate status. From a model colliery to a museum

The Zollern colliery was built as a prestige object by the Gelsenkirchen Bergwerks AG, a sign to competitors that it was the leading mining company on the market. The expensive building design, 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.

The colliery was closed for good. In the struggle to demolish all the buildings and replace them by an express highway, in the full steam of the market, the state conservation officer of the regional authority, the LWL integrated Zollern into its State Museum of Industrial Heritage.

The LWL integrated Zollern into its State Museum of Industrial Heritage. Our exhibitions will take you back to a material full of harsh working conditions that we highlight by using individual men and women’s lives as examples.

Discovering the colliery
The Colliers’ Path

No other branch of industry left its mark on people in the Ruhrgebiet as heavily as coal mining. Coal was the basic material for the chemical and steel industries. 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 mid-1970s. Thanks to the introduction of proper protective clothing, mining safety and welfare, the increase in working pressures, the miracle years of the 1960s and 1970s, and the boom years of industry and steel, the Zollern colliery is a fascinating example of the rise and fall of the mining industry between the 19th century German Empire and the mid-1970s. Thanks to the introduction of proper protective clothing, mining safety and welfare, the increase in working pressures, the miracle years of the 1960s and 1970s, and the boom years of industry and steel, the Zollern colliery is a fascinating example of the rise and fall of the mining industry between the 19th century German Empire and the mid-1970s.

We shall show you all the new equipment and coal-cutting technology. We shall also remind you of the many games, models, and experience for yourself what it was like to go down the shaft. You can try your hand at the mining experience, and explore a special children’s mine offer of games, models, and experience for yourself what it was like to go down the shaft. You can try your hand at the mining experience, and explore a special children’s mine offer of games, models, and experience for yourself what it was like to go down the shaft.

Accompany Franz on a journey of discovery
Children are fully catered for at Zollern. 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’s proud of and what he’s afraid of. A large number of games, models, and experiences are on offer to appeal to a wide audience and explore a special children’s mine offer of games, models, and experience for yourself what it was like to go down the shaft. You can try your hand at the mining experience, and explore a special children’s mine offer of games, models, and experience for yourself what it was like to go down the shaft.
Experience the colliery

Tips for your day out

What we offer

A lot of attractive features will make your visit to Zollern an unforgettable experience. Free guided tours on Sundays are an insider’s tip for everyone wanting to show their friends an aspect of industrial heritage. Groups can book individual guided tours concentrating on special themes like architecture, or ecology. One particular highlight is the night shift through the illuminated colliery once a fortnight, that ends with a hearty evening meal in the foyer of the management building.

We can offer guided tours for school parties and children’s classes concentrating on special themes like architecture or ecology. One particular highlight is the night shift through the illuminated colliery once a fortnight, that ends with a hearty evening meal in the foyer of the management building.

We can offer made-to-measure packages for conferences

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In front of the colliery gates

There is also a lot to discover in front of the colliery gates. It’s worthwile taking a stroll around the old colliery housing estate and to the spool tower in the middle of the Bitburger Moore nature protection area. A short distance away is the Sheik Mansur, an old ottoman country house with a small museum. You can pick up a free map of the immediate vicinity at the ticket office.

The next anchor points along the Industrial Heritage Trail are the Zeche Zollern from which you can reach the colliery by car via the Bitburger street. Here you can access the colliery by a lift. The Phoenix cultural station and the exhibition building in Dortmund, and the Henrichenburg shiplift in the Emscher Park are also easily accessible by car or bike. They are not far away and can be quickly reached by car or bike.

Time off

Free admission

Enjoy the Industrial Heritage Trail

Tourist information can be obtained at the Avennes Information Center in Dortmund. It is available here on the website www.lwl-industriemuseum.de.


Contact

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E-Mail: zehnten@lwl-industriemuseum.de

Opening hours

- Weekdays: 9.0000-20.00
- Sundays and holidays: 10.00-18.00

How to find us

How to find us

By rail: Line S3: “Provinzialstraße” Dortmund-Bövinghausen, alight “Bitburger Street” (max. 7 minutes). Further walking distance: 1,800 meters.

By bus: Line 462 from the City Center ‘Kö“’, alight ‘Bitburger Street’; line 235 from the city center ‘Römer‘, alight ‘Bitburger Street’. From here it is a ten minute walk.

From Dortmund central station: turn left at the “Emschertalbahn” Dortmund-Dorsten, alight Bövinghausen.

Old type shoelaces for a very old colliery.

Bergische Museum

The LWL-Industriemuseum is an umbrella museum comprising eight different industrial heritage sites. It was set up in 1977 by the “Gemeindeverwaltung Westfälischer Industriegarten” (broadly: the Regional Association of Westphalian industrial gardens). It is Germany’s largest museum of its kind. Its mission is to preserve the culture of the industrial era, to communicate, research and promote the culture of the industrial era and its landscapes for generations to come.

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