

# The Zollern colliery

## A castle of labour

At first sight the splendid redbrick facades and opulent gables with their crenellations and onion towers arranged around the green **courtyard of honour** are more reminiscent of an aristocratic residence than a working colliery. But this was the precise intention behind the buildings. Nowadays

the 'Castle of Labour' is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and extraordinary testimonies to Germany's industrial past.

Today it is scarcely conceivable that, after the site was closed in the 1960s, there were plans to demolish all the buildings and replace them by an express highway. In the struggle to preserve the site the most important building was the engine house with its impressive

**art nouveau entrance**, today an icon of industrial heritage. In 1969, the guarantees that were given to preserve this representative steel and glass building not only saved the whole site from demolition, but at the same time marked the beginning of **industrial monument** conservation in Germany.

That said, the outstanding representative features and colliery buildings are only one of



Jugendstil clock



Engine house ca. 1920

## From a model colliery to a museum

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

After a brilliant start in the late years of the German Empire, decline soon set in. In the mid-1920s the new owners, the United Steel Works AG, announced the forthcoming end of production here. It was only the Second World War and the post-war era which gave the colliery a new boost. But in 1966, following the crisis in the coal industry, the Zollern colliery was closed for good.

It is indisputable that the colliery would have fallen victim to the vogue of demolition in the early years of **structural transformation** had the plans not been met by vehement protests from committed grass-roots opponents. Shortly before excavators arrived on the site to demolish the buildings the state conservation officer of the regional authority, the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), saved the colliery from destruction by listing it. Thus the Zollern colliery became the first industrial building in Germany to be awarded the **status of a monument**. In 1981 the LWL integrated Zollern into its State Museum of Industrial Heritage.

Old view of the colliery



Apprentice

## Discovering the colliery

### The Colliers' Path

No other branch of industry has left its mark on people in the Ruhrgebiet as heavily as coal mining. Coal fed the insatiable hunger for energy from industry and people alike. 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 miracle years of the 1950s, the boom years of industry and the age of structural transformation. Here you can find out more about the particular living and working conditions of colliers and their families on their housing estates and at work.

We shall show you all the things which affected coal miners most closely: their gloomy working conditions in the gritty air, their health and safety problems, including fatal accidents, their fear of wage cutting and the increase in working pressures. But we shall also remind you of the progress towards better working conditions thanks to better lighting, longer life expectations

Miners headlamp in the exhibition 'A Light in the Night'



Mining in mini-format



Working the model hauling gear

through good medical care, the decline in the number of accidents thanks to the introduction of proper protective clothing, colliery fire-fighters, and above all the comprehensive **training measures** offered to apprentice miners. Here you will experience at first hand how an apprentice miner became a fully fledged collier.

You can try your hand at working with a pneumatic pick and experience for yourself what a collier had to endure for eight hours a day every day before he went home to tend his garden or allotment, and his domestic animals.

A view of the exhibition



## 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 opportunities to crawl around

and explore a special children's mine offer an ideal mixture of **discovery, movement, learning and looking** – and maybe also a lot of surprises. And it's a near certainty that when Franz explains, at a model of the Koepe wheel, how the coal was hauled to the surface at the Zollern colliery, adults will also take an interest in the children's texts.

Apprentice Franz



View of the Court of Honour



Guided tour



Engine house entrance







Dortmund

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A castle of labour

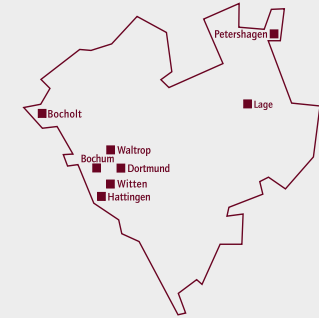
www.lwl-industriemuseum.de

**LWL**  
Für die Menschen.  
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

# Experiencing the colliery

**LWL-Industriemuseum**  
Westphalian State Museum of Industrial Heritage

The LWL-Industriemuseum 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.



Eight Sites – One Museum  
[www.lwl-industriemuseum.de](http://www.lwl-industriemuseum.de)

Visit our partner, the LVR-Industriemuseum

We are also participating  
**RUHR.2010**  
European Capital of Culture

## 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 icon 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 made-to-measure learn-and-play programmes for

school parties and children's birthdays. A **playground** immediately adjacent to the museum restaurant, and an indoor 'underground' adventure space with its labyrinth of galleries and caves will guarantee that a family outing will be a huge success whatever the weather. From May to September our popular **colliery train** trundles around the site at a gentle speed.

We would be delighted to send you a **flyer** containing all our offers. You can also get all the information and dates you require at: [www.lwl-industriemuseum.de](http://www.lwl-industriemuseum.de)



A wedding at Zollern

## Culture instead of coal

The 'stylish colliery' has now become a **cultural meeting point** for the whole region. It is particularly known for events like museum nights, old-timer meetings, tango nights, children's days and special markets. Here you can find representatives from the worlds of art and politics, business and science alongside members of local and regional clubs and the immediate neighbourhood.

We can offer rooms with a historic atmosphere and modern equipment for **conferences**.

# 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 around the old **colliery housing estate** and to the spoil tip in the middle of the Deipenbecker Wood nature protection area. A short distance away by foot is Dellwig Mansion, an old aristocratic country seat with a small museum. You can pick up a free map of the immediate vicinity at our box office.

The next anchor points along the **Industrial Heritage Trail** are not far away and can be quickly reached by car or bike. They are the Hansa coking plant and the German Protection at Work Exhibition in Dortmund, and the Henrichenburg shiplift in Waltrop. The latter is also one of the sites belonging to the LWL-Industriemuseum.

**Useful internet addresses:**  
[www.route-industriekultur.de](http://www.route-industriekultur.de)  
[www.dortmund-tourismus.de](http://www.dortmund-tourismus.de)  
[www.erih.net](http://www.erih.net)



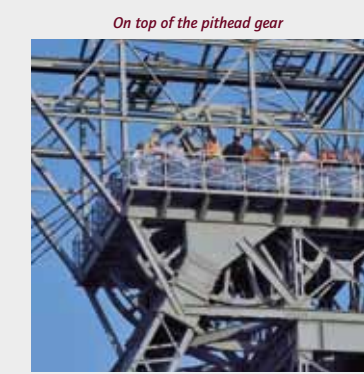
Colliery spoil tip

Why not pay a visit to our museum restaurant? It's in the coach house next to the old horse stable.

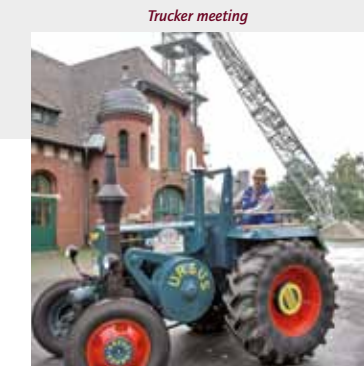
**Restaurant Pferdestall**  
The restaurant can cater for 110 persons, the beer garden for 60. LaTrina is a small room catering for groups of up to 50 persons  
À la carte  
Westphalian specialities  
Special day and seasonal menus  
Open:  
Tue-Sat: 12.00-22.00,  
Sun: 11.00-19.00  
Tel. 0049 (0)231 6903-236  
Fax: 0049 (0)231 6903-235  
E-Mail: [PferdestallWIM@aol.com](mailto:PferdestallWIM@aol.com)  
[www.PferdestallWIM.de](http://www.PferdestallWIM.de)



'Pferdestall' restaurant



On top of the pithead gear



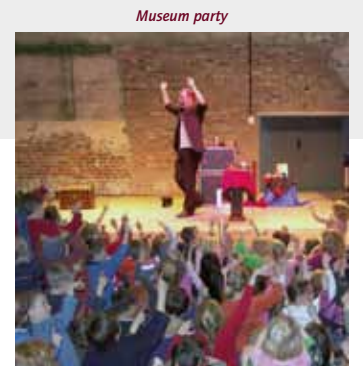
Trucker meeting



Museum tour



Children's birthday



Museum party



Night shift

The Zollern colliery Dortmund



The Hannover colliery Bochum



The Nightingale mine Witten



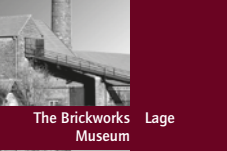
The Henrichshütte Ironworks Hattingen



The Henrichenburg ship lift Waltrop



The Bocholt Textile Museum Bocholt



The Brickworks Museum Lage



The Gernheim Glassworks Petershagen

Photos: A. Hudemann, M. Holtappels, LWL-Industriemuseum