

BASIC PRESS RELEASE

Denkmalpfad Zollverein (Monument Path)

June 2018

Discover industrial history of superlatives

Guided Tours of the disused Zollverein Coal Mine and Coking Plant

Essen. The Denkmalpfad Zollverein comprises the above-ground facilities of the Zollverein Coal Mine and Coking Plant in Essen, which are still preserved in their original condition and have been part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2001. They are only accessible during guided tours. Every day, visitors have the opportunity to experience the history and present of the disused industrial complex in various guided tours - in 2017, approximately 155,000 people took advantage of this offer.

In 1993, the first regular guided tours on the weekends attracted more than 5,000 visitors to see the facilities and equipment of the Zollverein Coal Mine. In 2009, the didactic concept was fundamentally revised, and since 2010, parts of the Zollverein Coking Plant have also been accessible for visitors. As from 2018, the Denkmalpfad Zollverein at the coking plant will be extended in the course of comprehensive refurbishment works and complemented with multimedia installations.

Currently, about 110 trained tour guides lead visitors through the above-ground installations of the once largest coal mine in the world and through the production facilities of what was once Europe's largest coking plant. At authentic places, the participants follow the "path of coal" above ground – from mining to transport through to processing in the coal washery and the subsequent coking process at the coking plant. Furthermore, the tour guides impart how and under which conditions miners and coking plant workers once worked and how the 100-hectare site has changed into a future location for culture and the industry since its decommissioning.

The offer comprises more than 30 guided tours in up to eight languages, among them themed tours, e.g. on architecture and art, adventure tours for families and children as well as the summer holidays programme "Zollverein Ferien". The guided tours "On Coal and Miners" and "Through Coke Oven and Hot Alley" rank among the most popular formats. In 2018, the Denkmalpfad in collaboration with the Ruhr Museum offers themed tours on the occasion of the large special exhibition "The Age of Coal. A European history" (27.04. -11.11.2018).

The majority of guided tours takes place regularly, registration is required for all tours under the phone number 0201 2 4 6 8 10 or via email to denkmalpfad@zollverein.de. Additionally, visitors can buy tickets for selected tours in the online ticket shop of Denkmalpfad Zollverein. (<https://zollverein.ticketfritz.de/>). Groups have the possibility to book different guided tours at individual dates. The Denkmalpfad Zollverein team is always happy to offer advice and support via email (denkmalpfad@zollverein.de).

A brochure with a practical, removable overview of guided tours informs about all offers and services of Denkmalpfad Zollverein. The publication is available at the Zollverein World Heritage Site and can be downloaded at www.denkmalpfad-zollverein.de.

Further information is available at: www.zollverein.de/english

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