

Press Information

12th June 2020

Leisure offerings at Zollverein are further extending

Museums and exhibitions at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein have reopened for visitors after a two month lockdown to slow the coronavirus outbreak. The time of the shutdown was used for renovation and digitalization measures.

Essen. With the reopening of the Ruhr Museum, the Red Dot Design Museum and the "SURVIVORS" exhibition, life has come back to the World Heritage since the beginning of May. More than two months after the start of the extensive measures, which were initiated in order to achieve containment of the coronavirus, further leisure activities at Zollverein have started again.

"Of course, we are glad to be able to restart further offerings at Zollverein", declares Prof. Heinrich Theodor Grütter, Board Member of the Zollverein Foundation and Director of the Ruhr Museum. "Economically, the shutdown was a heavy blow, many people are employed at the World Heritage Site and have partly been affected by short-time work. However, we only take the further steps in the context of our cautious reopening, because the previous weeks have shown, that our security measures are taking effect", Grütter explains. "The number of visitors of the exhibitions has slowly been growing, and we have had the possibility to check, whether a smooth and riskless operation is possible also under these special conditions. We are convinced of this, and therefore we now look forward to further visitors."

Further areas of the World Heritage Site are reopening

The panorama platform on the roof of the coal washing plant, which allows a view over Essen and its neighbouring towns, is accessible again. The way to this platform leads through the Portal of Industrial Heritage, which depicts the industrial-cultural history of the Ruhr Area and of Northrhine-Westphalia on digital info stations. In the "Rundeindicker" (round thickener), the newly opened exhibition "Die weite Stadt. Essen in den 1970er und 1980er Jahren. Farbfotografien von Heinz Josef Klaßen" (The vast city. Essen in the 1970s and the 1980s. Colour photographs by Heinz Josef Klaßen) is presented.

The artworks "La Primavera" by German-American artist Maria Nordmann and "The Palace of Projects" by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov also reopened and at the info container on parking space A2, footballs and score cards for a soccer-golf match can be lent free of charge.

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Since Saturday, **6th June**, the e-buses are making their round drives on the World Heritage Site again. At half-hour intervals, they connect the facilities of shaft XII, shaft 1/2/8 and the coking plant. Zollverein guided tours in German also started, tours in foreign languages will be offered again soon. Most restaurants and bistros offer a take away service.

Construction and renovation work is progressing

During the shutdown, the Zollverein Foundation was able to carry out and partly even terminate already planned construction and renovation measures earlier than scheduled. For example, on the "Ehrenhof" (commemorative courtyard), the surface areas have been improved and the clinker brick pavements have been reconditioned. Also the work in the "Salzfabrik" (salt factory), which has been reshaped to an exhibition area of the Ruhr Museum, is quickly progressing. At the digitalized Ruhr Visitor Center in the coal washing plant, two big displays now inform visitors about offerings, events and guided tours at Zollverein.

As the legal guidelines of the Corona Protection Ordinance are steadily changing, the Zollverein Foundation is continuously adapting its measures. In the exhibition spaces, signposts and distance markers are placed, and direction arrows are to guide the optimal path for a round tour. In order to ensure adherence to the protective measures, additional staff has been hired for the exhibitions. Entering all publicly accessible exhibition spaces is only allowed with mouth-nose covering. The maximally permitted number of persons, for example in the coal washing plant, the mixing plant and the salt depot are adjusted to the Corona Protection Ordinance.

Further information: www.zollverein.de