

PRESS RELEASE

Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site

Data, Facts and Figures

// The UNESCO World Heritage Site “Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex” comprises the areas of Shaft XII, Shaft 1/2/8 and the Coking Plant and thus a total area of 100 ha. This equals the size of 100 large football fields. Therefore, the Zollverein site is larger than Essen’s city centre (94 ha).

// The Zollverein Coal Mine was closed down in 1986 as the last of about 290 collieries in Essen. Essen once was the largest mining city on the European Continent.

// Shaft XII was put under a preservation order in December 1986 by ministerial decree, while Shaft 1/2/8 and the Zollverein Coking Plant followed on 20 June 2000.

// 96 buildings, more than 200 technical plants and machines, approx. 2.7 km of conveyor bridges and over 13.2 km of pipes are located on the site. Consequently, Zollverein is one of the largest industrial monuments in Europe and all over the world.

// December 14, 2001, the Zollverein Coal Mine and Coking Plant was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

// Zollverein has been developed as a location for the creative industry (art, culture, design), for education, tourism and recreation. The basis for this is the Zollverein master plan developed in 2002 by architect Rem Koolhaas and the Metropolitan Office for Architecture (OMA).

// Zollverein is a supreme example for mastering the structural change in an old industrial region and an international best-practice example for dealing with outstanding monuments of industrial history in line with preservation requirements.

// The mighty “Doppelbock” pit head gear has established itself as the landmark of the Ruhr area and is the symbol of identification for an entire region.

// Conversion projects and new buildings at Zollverein, which were designed by renowned architects, won numerous awards and acknowledgements.

// Zollverein is the central anchor point of the "Route of Industrial Heritage" as well as a significant anchor point of the "European Route of Industrial Heritage" (ERIH) and part of the UNESCO's travel platform "World Heritage Journeys".

// The Ruhr Museum is the first natural and cultural history museum of the Ruhr area with national prominence. Since its opening in January 2010, about 200,000 guests visit the permanent and special exhibition of the museum every year.

// Zollverein enjoys international reputation as a design location (Red Dot Design Museum / Red Dot Design and Red Dot Communication Award).

// PACT Zollverein (Choreographisches Zentrum NRW / Tanzlandschaft Ruhr) is internationally renowned for pioneering, multi-discipline developments in the fields of dance, performance, theatre, media, and fine arts.

// The "Portal of Industrial Heritage" as an information centre on industrial heritage is unique throughout Europe. It has been modernized extensively in 2019.

// The Design Faculty of the Folkwang University of the Arts makes the Zollverein World Heritage Site a location for research into and teaching of design sciences.

// The Zollverein World Heritage Site repeatedly won the CONGA-Award and the Location Award as Germany's best event location.

// Zollverein is a venue for cultural events and trade fairs of national and international prestige like Ruhrtriennale, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, ExtraSchicht, contemporary art ruhr (C.A.R.).

// Zollverein Park with an area of approx. 70 ha (and more than 20 artworks by nationally and internationally renowned artists) was an important part of "The European Green Capital 2017" and is part of the Emscher Landschaftspark – in the valley of the river Emscher (ELP).

// The World Heritage Site with Shaft XII, Shaft 1/2/8 and the Coking Plant is the base of 60 companies which mainly come from the creative and innovative industry, more than 70 companies are located in the start-up centre ZukunftsZentrumZollverein – Triple Z on Shaft 4/5/11.