The story of industrialization along the Rhine and the Ruhr
What was it like in the Rhineland at the time when countless looms were humming and the chimneys were still smoking? What was it like to work at a steam hammer and how did industrialization change the way of life of the population? All these questions can be answered at the LVR-Industriemuseum (LVR Industrial Museum).

**SEVEN SITES – ONE MUSEUM**

At seven authentic sites, the LVR-Industriemuseum tells the moving history of industrialization along the Rhine and the Ruhr and how it influenced the work and everyday life of the people at the very locations where everything took place: in the former factories. When the drive belts are humming, the furnaces are glowing and the hammer is pounding, you can feel the legacy of a region which was once the heart of cloth, paper, iron and steel production.
ZINKFABRIK ALTENBERG
(ALTENBERG ZINC FACTORY)

The exhibition areas in the Altenberg Zinc Factory are currently closed for refurbishment. From 2023, the museum will present a new exhibition about people in the industrial age. The museum team will continue to offer various events and you can also book rooms for your own events.

Zinkfabrik Altenberg
Hansastraße 20 | 46049 Oberhausen | Germany
Public Transport: 2 minutes’ walk from Oberhausen main station
By car: from the motorway exits direction Oberhausen-Zentrum, then follow the signposting

MUSEUM PLATFORM AT THE MAIN STATION

The museum platforms 4 and 5 at Oberhausen main station demonstrate the importance of this former transhipment site for the heavy manufacturing goods.

PETER-BEHRENS-BAU

The permanent exhibition „Peter Behrens - Art and Technology on the fifth floor of the Peter Behrens building presents architectural models - especially created from the original plans by the Peter Behrens School of Arts at the University of Düsseldorf as well as numerous current and historical photographs of Peter Behren’s buildings. In addition there are many exhibits from the LVR-Industriemuseum Collection.

Temporary exhibitions are held on the ground floor of the Peter-Behrens-Bau

Peter-Behrens-Bau
Essener Straße 80 | 46047 Oberhausen
Opening hours: Tue-Fr 10am - 5 pm, Sat & Sun 11am - 6pm
Public transport: from Oberhausen main station Bus Stop 1, any bus to bus stop „Neue Mitte”
Car: From the A 42, Exit 10, in the direction of Oberhausen along Konrad Adenauer Allee to Essener Straße

EXHIBIT COLLECTIONS IN THE PETER-BEHRENS-BAU

The Peter-Behrens-Bau, a distinctive industrial building located near the shopping centre CentrO, waits to be explored. The former main warehouse of the company Gutehoffnungshütte, now repository of the LVR-Industriemuseum, accommodates more than 300,000 collection items representing predominantly the textile, metal, paper, plastic and electricity sectors. The collection repository can be visited as part of a guided tour.
ST. ANTONY-HÜTTE
(ST. ANTONY IRONWORKS)

The birthplace of the Ruhr industry: the St. Antony-Hütte. Here, the first pig iron of the Ruhr area flowed out of a blast furnace in 1758. Nowadays this site describes the thrilling start of the iron and steel industry, as well as important innovations and the hard life of the people who worked there.

Persons without whom the Ruhr area would not have become what it is today lived and worked at the metal works: Jacobi, Haniel, Krupp, Wenge - they are all significant pioneers in heavy industry. It was not only the birthplace of the Ruhr industry but also the cradle of the future global player »Gutehoffnungshütte« (GHH).

LVR INDUSTRIAL-ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Next to the museum, the visitors can explore the LVR Industrial-Archaeological Park – the first of its kind in Germany – with its 1,000 square-metre excavation site and its unique relicts from the early days of the St. Antony-Hütte. 3-D/animations bring the once pulsating St. Antony-Hütte to new life. A blast furnace, a cupola furnace and a foundry are reconstructed virtually and show how products like pots and pans, ammunition and machine parts were produced there.

MUSEUM EISENHEIM

The workers who moved to the Ruhr area in large numbers found a home here in the golden age of the Ruhr industry: in the Eisenheim housing estate in Oberhausen-Osterfeld. Founded in 1846, it is one of the oldest of many workers' and colliery estates in the Ruhr area. Today, the Museum Eisenheim presents the history of the estate and the everyday life of the people in the community.

St. Antony-Hütte
Antonienstraße 32–34 | 46119 Oberhausen | Germany
Opening hours: Tue – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun 11am – 6pm
Public transport: From Oberhausen main station with the bus SB 92 or SB 93 either to the stop »Klosterhardter Straße«, from there approx. 6 minutes’ walk, or to the stop »Osterfeld Mitte«, then change to bus 961 to »Antony Hütte«
By car: From the A 516 in direction Arnheim, exit Sterkrade, along the street Dreilinden and the Teutoburger Straße to the Antonienstraße, then follow the signposting
Guided tours: English

Museum Eisenheim
Berliner Straße 10a | 46117 Oberhausen | Germany
The museum Eisenheim is open on Sundays and public holidays from Easter Sunday until the last Sunday in October from 11 am to 6pm.
Public transport: From Oberhausen main station with the tram 112 or the busses 960, SB 90 and SB98 (Stop Eisenheim)
By car: A 516, exit Eisenheim, then follow the signposting
Guided tours: English
TEXTILFABRIK CROMFORD

The first factory on the European continent can be found in Ratingen: the Textilfabrik Cromford. Today, the mechanical cotton spinning mill is the only museum worldwide which demonstrates how raw cotton is processed into yarn on authentically reconstructed versions of 18th century machines.

The working conditions of men, women and children in the spinning halls are also a topic of the exhibition in the buildings which were constructed by the factory owner Johann Gottfried Brügelmann over 200 years ago. Historical dresses and luxurious accessories present the splendid and colourful side of cotton.

CROMFORD MANSION

The magnificent Cromford mansion next to the factory was the management hub of this once important company. It also served as the residence of the Brügelmanns who were one of the leading industrialist families of the day. The permanent exhibition depicting the family’s living environment reflects how business was conducted in politically unstable times, as well as the very private things such as their favourite food, hunting, wedding plans, their servants or the preparations for a celebration.

Textilfabrik Cromford
Cromforder Allee 24 | 40878 Ratingen | Germany
Opening hours: Tue – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun 11am – 6pm
Public transport: from the station Ratingen-Ost with the bus 773 to the stop »Blauer See«, from here 10 minutes’ walk
By car: from the motorway exits in the direction of Ratingen, then follow the signposting
Guided tours: English & French

LET US GUIDE YOU!

You want to visit our museums with a group? We offer many different guided tours with a variety of topics. The guided tours can be booked in different languages. For bookings and further information see page 18.
GESENKSCHMIEDE HENDRICHs
(HENDRICHs DROP FORGE)

The town of Solingen with its cutlery production was a »workshop for the world« at the end of the 19th century. Today you can still witness how red glowing cropped pieces are forged into scissors blanks with a great deal of noise. At the same time you can learn a lot about the history of the famous cutlery industry in Solingen.

The historical Gesenkschmiede Hendrichs is a special museum because actual production still takes place. The scissors sold at the museum are produced in the factory and you can watch the process step by step. The changing room with its old lockers, the washroom, the engine house or the office with rattling typewriters – everything is still where it belonged and is waiting to be discovered. Next to the factory, the spruce villa dating from 1896 gives an impression of the life of the industrialist family.

GESSENKSCHMIEDE HENDRICHs
(MUSEUM)

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN SOLINGEN

Together with several partners the museum has set up various industrial heritage stations which can be visited: the Wipperkotten grinding shop, the former Loosen Maschinn steam-operated grinding shop, the Lauterjing pocket knife grinding shop, as well as the old Weegerhof washhouse.

GESENKSCHMIEDE HENDRICHs
(MUSEUM)

Opening hours: Tue – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun 11am – 6pm
Public transport: from Solingen station with the bus 681 to stop »Industriemuseum«
By car: from the motorway exits Langenfeld/Solingen or Haan-Ost/Solingen in direction Solingen-Merscheid, then follow the signposting
Guided tours: English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Greek & Turkish | Audio guides: English, French & Dutch

EXPLORE THE MUSEUMS ON YOUR OWN!

You want to explore our museums on your own and still get additional interesting information? Our sites Gesenkschmiede Hendrichs in Solingen and Papiermühle Alte Dombach in Bergisch Gladbach offer audio guides for their permanent exhibitions. These audio guides are available in different languages.
The huge PM4, a paper-making machine dating from 1889 is very impressive being 40 metres in length and five metres in height. A small theatre made of paper, a collection of friendship letters or historical packagings demonstrate how paper was used in the past. Nowadays, millions of tons of paper are produced every year. The consequences for our environment are vividly depicted.

Children can have fun on the playground or romp around in the meadows which surround the museum.
OELCHENSHAMMER
(OELCHENSHAMMER FORGE)

Only a few kilometres away in a tributary valley of the Agger the LVR-Industriemuseum runs one of the last functioning water-operated forging hammers in the Oberbergische Land: the Oelchenshammer. During forging season from April until October, visitors have an opportunity to gain an insight into the age-old trade by watching the museum’s smith.

KRAFTWERK ERMEN & ENGELS
(ERMEN & ENGELS POWER PLANT)

Here you will definitely see light! Because everything relates to electricity. The water power plant which supplied the former cotton spinning mill Ermen & Engels - founded in 1837 by Friedrich Engels Sen. - father of the famous companion of Karl Marx - was built around 1900.

Explore the power station with its mighty turbines, the imposing flywheel and the historic switchboard. The pulsating tour around the monument provides a vivid impression of how the power of the Agger river has been transformed into electricity since 1903.

Play stations relating to electricity are available in the electricity workshop for school groups and families.

Kraftwerk Ermen & Engels
Engels-Platz 2 | 51766 Engelskirchen | Germany
Opening hours:
April to October: Tue – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun 11am – 6pm
November to March: A tour of the power station is only possible for groups with a prior appointment.
Public transport: from the Engelskirchen station 3 minutes’ walk
By car: Motorway 4, exit Engelskirchen, then follow the signposting
Guided tours: English

Oelchenshammer
Oelchensweg | 51766 Engelskirchen-Bickenbach | Germany
Opening hours: The Oelchenshammer is open from April to October on Sundays from 2 pm – 6 pm.
Public transport: Once an hour by train from Cologne or Gummersbach to Engelskirchen, from there with the bus 331 or 333 [direction Wipperfürth] to stop »Madonna«, then approx. 6 minutes’ walk, or with the bus 308 [direction Marienheide] to stop »Bickenbach«, then approx. 12 minutes’ walk
By car: Motorway 4 (Cologne – Olpe), exit Engelskirchen, then in direction Marienheide. The Oelchenshammer is signposted just before the Bickenbach town boundary.
Guided tours: English
MUSEUM-GUESTHOUSE MOTTENBURG

The museum-guesthouse Mottenburg in Euskirchen offers a unique option for learning, accommodation, meetings, conferences and celebrations next to the former cloth factory and the remains of the medieval upper Castle Kuchenheim. School classes can delve into the interesting topics presented by the museum in depth during their stay over several days.

BICYCLE STATION

A museum-operated bicycle rent shop offers high quality bikes for adults and adolescents providing an opportunity to explore the many sites in the surrounding area.

TUCHFABRIK MÜLLER
(MÜLLER CLOTH FACTORY)

At this extraordinary site it seems as if the time has stood still. After decades of being unused, the Tuchfabrik Müller has been restored to life as a unique museum which depicts the heyday of the textile industry.

During the tour through the 100 year old factory, the machines start droning again and demonstrate how wool is made into cloth. The huge carding machine combs the wool, the powerful spinning machines produce twine, the looms pound and the weaving shuttles rush back and forth. The museum shop offers products made of Müller fabrics which have been woven in the factory.

Tuchfabrik Müller
Carl-Koenen-Straße | 53881 Euskirchen | Germany
Opening hours: Tue – Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat & Sun 11am – 6pm
The cloth factory can only be visited with a guided tour. Guided tours in German (without prior appointment) are available at the following times: Tue – Sat 11am, 1pm, 3pm, Sun 11am, noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm
Public transport: from the Kuchenheim station 15 minutes’ signposted walk; from Euskirchen station with the bus 874 [Mon – Sat] to stop »Händelstraße« and 870 [Sun & holidays] to stop »Rheinisches Industriemuseum«
By car: from the motorway exit direction Euskirchen, then follow the signposting
Guided tours: English, French & Dutch
ENTRANCE FEE FOR PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

- Peter-Behrens-Bau: 6 €, reduced 5 €
- St. Antony-Hütte: 5 €, reduced 4 €
- Textilfabrik Cromford: 4,50 €, reduced 3,50 €
- Gesenkschmiede Hendrichs: 5 €, reduced 4 €
- Papiermühle Alte Dombach: 4,50 €, reduced 4 €
- Tuchfabrik Müller (only to visit with guided tour): 7 €, reduced 4 € (incl. guided tour)
- Kraftwerk Ermen & Engels: 3 €, reduced 2,50 €
- Oelchenshammer: 3 €, reduced 2,50 €
- Museum Eisenheim: 2,50 €

Entrance to the LVR-Industriemuseum for children and adolescents up to 18 years of age is free!

GUIDED TOURS AND AUDIO GUIDES

Our museums offer several different guided tours in many languages e.g. English, French, Dutch. Also audio guides are available in some of our museums.

- Renting fee for audio guides: 2 €
- Guided tours: 45-60 €

ACCESSIBILITY

The LVR-Industriemuseum locations are to a large extent accessible for persons with restricted mobility. For persons with a disability we offer guided tours and events specifically oriented to the needs of the respective group, for example guided touch tours and tours in sign language.

ERIH – EUROPEAN ROUTE OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Cultural networking is very important to us. We are especially happy about our cooperation with the European route of industrial heritage which has added all of our sites to their tourism network. They collect information about European industrial sites and create regional and themed routes. Two of our sites – the Gesenkschmiede Hendrichs in Solingen and the Tuchfabrik Müller in Euskirchen – are important anchor points of this route. www.erih.net