

World Heritage Site
Völklinger Hütte

Hello World

Program
2021
2022





The ironworks is aglow

The Völklinger Hütte World Cultural Heritage Site is the world's only fully intact ironworks from the zenith of the industrial era. Today, with its many halls, open spaces and fascinating tangles of pipe systems, it offers a unique setting for international exhibitions, festivals and concerts. What's more, it's a place where culture and nature meet: what was once the "hell" of the coking plant, for example, is now a truly wild Paradise.

The image shows the interior of a vast industrial museum. The space is filled with a complex network of dark steel beams, girders, and walkways. In the foreground, a set of stairs with a metal railing leads up. To the left, a platform is marked with the number '504'. In the background, large industrial machinery, including a massive flywheel, is visible. The floor is a mix of concrete and a checkered tile pattern. The lighting is warm and focused, highlighting the structural details.

A monument of industrial culture

Völklinger Hütte's historical pig-iron production facilities are completely intact. Several kilometres of visitor walkways lead to milestones in the history of technology, such as the inclined ore lift, the sintering plant and the huge flywheels of the blowing engines, which once pumped air into the cowper stoves and blast furnaces. The blower hall is an exhibition and festival space with a truly unique aura.





In Paradise

In PARADISE, it is fascinating to observe how diverse flora and fauna have recaptured parts of the facility. PARADISE is now home to fish, frogs, foxes and wild boar, while birch trees and lilac flourish where once there was only heat, dust and fire. Winding paths lead to Ottmar Hörl's monumental 10-metre-high sculpture King Kong – a special surprise waiting at the end of the walkways.



A moving place of remembrance

Over the course of the two World Wars, more than 12,000 people were forced to work at Völklinger Hütte. The world-famous artist Christian Boltanski has created a poignant memorial to these forced labourers in the World Cultural Heritage Site. The thought of the daily work performed by ironworkers in normal times subsequently inspired Boltanski to create a second installation using lockers and voices of memory.

A large industrial complex, likely a former ironworks or coking plant, dominates the background. It features several tall, dark smokestacks and a large, multi-story building with a complex steel framework. In the foreground, a group of people are captured in motion, performing a dance or movement piece on a paved area. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Events and festivals

Völklinger Hütte is a place that keeps reinventing itself: festivals, theatre productions and concerts interact with their multifaceted industrial surroundings to create extraordinary experiences. During the cultural joint venture "Staatstheater goes Völklinger Hütte" (5 September 2021), artists from Saarland's State Theatre will perform in the middle of the former ironworks. In summer, the PARADIESFEST Paradise Festival celebrates the garden wilderness in the former coking plant with music, performance and dance.

1986

Photographs by
Michael Kerstgens

25.4.21 – 6.2.22

In January, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded; in April, there was a nuclear catastrophe in Chernobyl. But there was more to 1986 than an apocalyptic farewell to modernity. Michael Kerstgen's images of everyday life, sport and leisure reveal a year of surreal normality. At Völklinger Hütte, industrial production ceased in 1986, and indeed throughout Germany, the shift from an industrial society to a service and leisure society was becoming evident. It is precisely this shift that Kerstgen's photographs capture.



FUTURE LAB

10.10.21 – 27.3.22

In the FUTURE LAB, central questions about our present and past are subjected to artistic and experimental investigations. How are we going to live with the transformations caused by human beings and industrialisation over the past two centuries? The second Future Lab, "Speculative Nomads: From Ironworks to huts" focuses on a creative dialogue between local residents and spaces: the people of Völklingen, their history and their town.



A person wearing a metallic, reflective skull mask with a red 'GENTLE' tag on the side. They are dressed in an orange jacket, black pants, and black Fox motocross boots. They are crouching on a mossy ground in an industrial setting with dark metal structures in the background.

The World of Music Video

22.1.22 – 16.10.22

This major exhibition on the history of the music video and current developments in the form aims to examine videos' musical and artistic qualities as well as the burning issues they address, such as AI, climate change and gender questions. Large screens will appear between the huge blowing engines, while monitors will be installed in more private niches. With plenty of space to both dance and reflect, the exhibition provides a panorama of the genre and art form that has never been realised



Len Lye, Rainbow Dance, 1936

in this form. "The World of Music Video" promises to be a feast for the eyes – and ears! Music videos are signs of our times, an integral part of contemporary culture that is produced and broadcast all over the world. At the same time, these videos are a world of their own, a synthesis of music, dance and film. This major exhibition on the history of the music video and current developments in the form aims to explore this world, from Queen through Lady Gaga and Beyoncé to Indian, Japanese, Russian and African contributions to the form. All fixtures and carpets will be removed from the blower Hall to transform it into the perfect

setting for musical projections. Experience around 90 music videos from more than thirty countries around the world. Among the musicians, artists and directors to be featured are: Jonas Åkerlund, Laurie Anderson, Roger Ballen, Beyoncé, Joseph Beuys, David Bowie, Björk, Childish Gambino, Chris Cunningham, Daft Punk, Deichkind, Billie Eilish, Garbage, Romain Gavras, Michel Gondry, Spike Jonze, John Landis, Lenin-grad, Little Big, Massive Attack, Nuka, Piero Pirupa, Psy, Pussy Riot, Yoko Ono, Queen, Rammstein, Stromae, Tracey Ullman, Vaundy, Andy Warhol, Yello and Zoot Woman.

World Heritage Site Völklinger Hütte

Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte
Europäisches Zentrum für Kunst und Industriekultur GmbH
General Director Dr. Ralf Beil
Managing Director Michael Schley
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66333 Völklingen / Germany

Entrance

Reduced rate 15 €
Standard 17 €
2-day ticket 20 €
Children and youths up to 18 years free
Students up to 27 years with ID free

Opening hours

Open 362 days a year!
daily 10 am – 7 pm
from 1 November 10 am – 6 pm
open on 2nd Christmas Day and New Year's Day
24, 25 and 31 December closed

Guided tours of the site or exhibition

About 1,5 hours / max. 30 persons
For groups advanced booking required 110 €
plus reduced admission of 15 € per person.
Special rate for school classes. Guided tours for
schools and groups before 10 am possible.
The World Cultural Heritage Site Völklingen
Ironworks is largely barrier-free.

Annual ticket

Adults 45 €
Sponsor card from 100 €

Visitor Service

Phone +49 (0) 6898 / 9 100 100
Fax +49 (0) 6898 / 9 100 111
visit@voelklinger-huette.org
www.voelklinger-huette.org

Catering facilities

Café Umwalzer / Bistro B 40
Phone +49 (0) 6898 / 914 455

Supported by



Arrival by rail

Saarbrücken main station to Völklingen main station: 10 min.
The Völklinger Hütte World Cultural Heritage Site is a
comfortable three-minute walk from Völklingen rail station.

Arrival by car/bus

From Mannheim/Saarbrücken via A620,
exit Völklingen/Geislautern, No. 8.
From Luxembourg via A8 (changing to A620),
take exit Völklingen/City, No. 9.
Follow the signs "World Heritage Site".
2,500 free parking spaces.
ADAC-classified motorhome parking spaces available.

Arrival at airport

Saarbrücken-Ensheim: 35 km
Direct flights to/from Berlin and Hamburg
Luxembourg: 90 km
International connection

Tourismus Zentrale Saarland GmbH

Phone +49 (0) 681 / 9 27 20-0
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Educational, Scientific and
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Völklingen Ironworks
World Heritage since 1994

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SAARLAND

