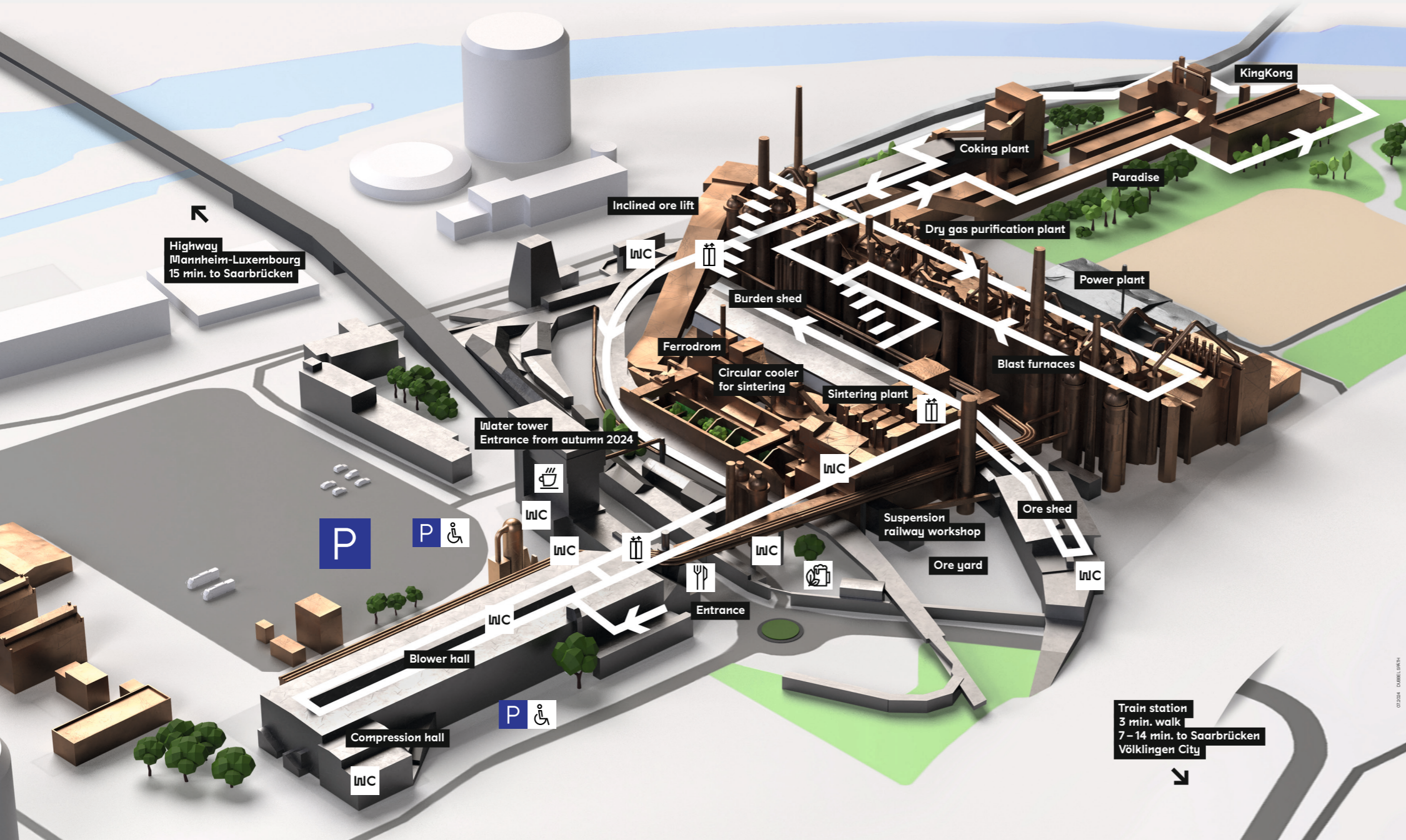


The **World Cultural Heritage Site Völklinger Hütte** was the first monument from the zenith of the industrial era to be included on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The industrial plant in the Saarland is an example of cross-border industrialisation in Europe. Today, with its many halls, open spaces and fascinating tangles of pipe

systems, the Völklinger Hütte offers a unique setting for international exhibitions, festivals and concerts. What's more, it's a place where culture and nature meet: The Paradise in the old coking plant is the most impressive illustration of this.



www.voelklinger-huette.org



World Heritage Site Völklinger Hütte

SITE MAP



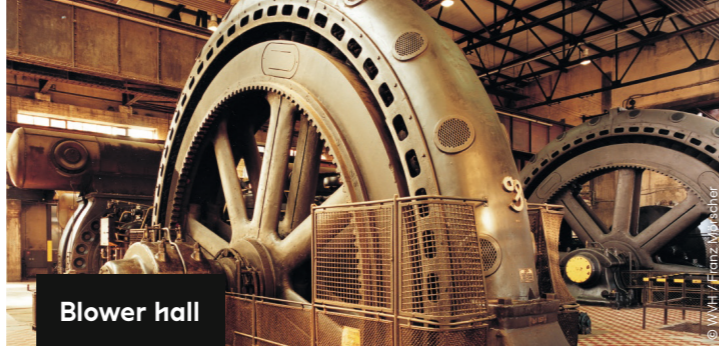
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Water tower and pump house

© WWH / Ralf Bell

Its monumental scale is already striking from afar: The Völklinger Hütte water tower, built in 1917/18, is one of the largest water towers ever built. Enormous amounts of water were needed to cool the steel shells of the blast furnaces. If the pumps failed, the water stored here could maintain the water supply for about 15 minutes. Unusual for the time is the complete reinforced concrete construction of the building. Now the water tower will become the spectacular new entrance and visitor center of the World Heritage Site. The ticket office, shop, café and the exhibition MOTION POWERS HISTORY will be located there.



Blower hall

© WWH / Franz M. Pascher

Up to 29 metres long, 14 metres wide and with a flywheel diameter of six metres: Once seen, the gigantic blower machines will not be forgotten in a hurry. They once pumped compressed air to the hot-blast stoves and blast furnaces. In the opposite direction, the purified blast furnace gas drove their pistons and flywheels: an exemplary cycle. Construction of the blower hall started in 1900 and even now, many decades after it was shut down, you can still smell here the odour of the oil that the workers used to maintain their machines. Today the blower hall is an exhibition and festival venue with a unique aura.



Sintering plant

© WWH / Hans-Georg Merkel

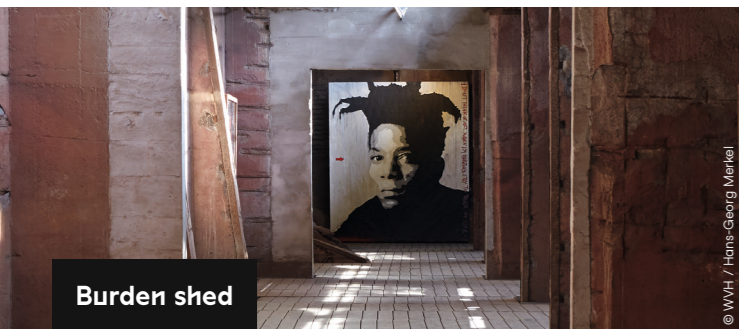
Nothing should go to waste unused: Therefore, the residues of the smelting process were sintered in Völklingen. By intense heating, the ore dust collected was caked together into material about the size of a fist and thus made reusable. Here too they were thinking big: The 1928 sintering plant was one of the largest in Europe at the time. Today the building is our key location for the presentation of historical contexts: At the centre is the memorial to the forced labourers, designed by the world famous Christian Boltanski, joined by historical exhibitions and further art installations.



Ore shed and ore yard

© WWH / Oliver Dietze

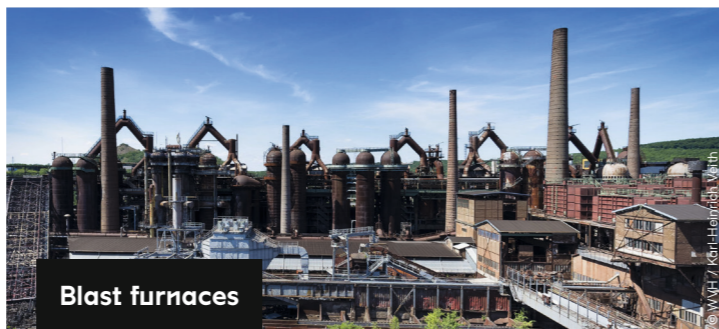
A huge treasure trove for the valuable raw material of pig iron production: The ore shed, built between 1900 and 1903, could store 12,000 tonnes of iron ore. The shed is characterised by mighty steel profiles, for which Völklinger Hütte was the market leader throughout Germany. If you look closely, you can see the company name "Röchling" on them. Today the World Heritage Site is looking to the future in an artistic and experimental way with the FUTURE LABS: How will we live with the changes brought about by industrialisation? At the same time, theatre festivals and concerts take place here and on the ore yard.



Burden shed

© WWH / Hans-Georg Merkel

Industrial culture on three levels: Trains with raw materials arrived at the top, in the middle the raw materials for the "burden" – the blast furnace mixture of iron ore, sinter, scrap and lime – were stored and at the bottom the overhead railway wagons were loaded to transport it all to the blast furnaces. In 1913 the burden shed was one of the first large reinforced concrete buildings of its kind in Germany. Its brittle charm particularly comes into its own for photo presentations. Every two years it is also the central space of the renowned UrbanArt Biennale®, an international survey of art that has evolved from street art and graffiti.



Blast furnaces

© WWH / Kar-Heinrich Voth

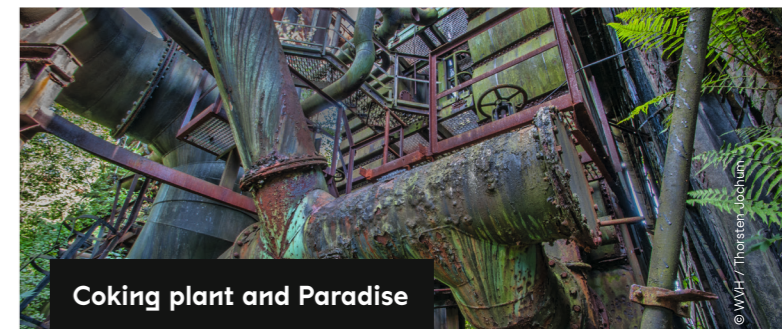
The Völklinger Hütte skyline with the inclined ore lift and charging platform: This is where the actual transformation of ore and coke into pig iron took place – the material that formed the basis for steel production. There were temperatures of up to 2,000 degrees in the six blast furnaces. Yet they are not even visible from outside: The blast furnaces are virtually hidden behind the hot-blast stoves and the tangle of pipes and chimneys. Only the triangular Y-branch pipes indicate their existence. Dare to climb up to the charging platform and the viewing platform above the blast furnaces at a height of 45 metres: The view is breathtaking!



Dry gas purification plant

© WWH / Tom Gurr-Jelweith

The dry gas purification plant is an original Saarland innovation. In the three dry gas purification plants, built between 1911 and 1922, the blast furnace gas was sucked through cotton hoses. Ore dust and coke residues remained caught in them. The purified gas could be reused in many ways: to drive blower machines and dynamos, for blast heating, in the sintering plant and in the coking plant. In an extremely time-consuming process, these historic installations were cleaned of pollutants and secured. Now this masterpiece of technical history including the blast furnace control room will be made accessible to our visitor.



Coking plant and Paradise

© WWH / Thesen Jochum

The coking plant was considered one of the hardest workplaces at the Völklinger Hütte, where heat, dust and fire ruled. Hard coal was converted into coke here as only this form of pure carbon developed the required effect in the blast furnace process. Today parts of the area are undergoing a transformation of a very different kind: Flora and fauna have reclaimed their terrain. And so the World Heritage Site is not only a fine example of industrialisation, but also a place of nature. In Paradise, birch trees and butterfly bushes grow, lizards come across foxes and winding paths lead to Ottmar Hörl's 10-metre high monumental sculpture "KingKong".