

### Audio guide app

ENG

free, 1 hour, in German and English, daily

#### The Emscher.

#### Pictorial History of a River

The app tour provides detailed information about the eventful history of the Emscher at 24 selected stations.

### Tours

Unless indicated otherwise:

Meeting point is the Ruhr Museum Counter 24-metre level, € 3 plus admission for adults, 1.5 hours, in German

#### Guided public tours

Thu to Sun and public holidays\_ 12 noon

#### Curator's tours

Fri 7.10., 4.11., 2.12., 6.1., 3.2., 3.3., 7.4.\_3pm

#### Guided tours for senior citizens

Tue 20.12., 21.3.\_11am

#### Guided group tours

€ 70 plus admission per person, groups of pupils and students € 50 with free admission, tour in English, € 80 plus admission per person, 1.5 hours

### Lecture series

Ruhr Museum, Coking Coal Bunker, free, 1.5 hours

Tue 18.10.\_6pm

**Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz-Josef Brüggemeier**  
**The potatoes grew particularly well.**  
**History of the environment in the Ruhr District**

Tue 25.10.\_6pm

**Ralf Peters**  
**Water management in the region.**  
**The Emschergenossenschaft**

Tue 1.11.\_6pm

**Prof. Dr. Dirk van Laak**  
**Everything flows.**  
**Water history perspectives on the Ruhr District**

Tue 8.11.\_6pm

**Prof. Dr. Uli Paetzel**  
**The Emscher is coming.**  
**The transformation and future of the Emscher system**

### Film series

Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site

Mixing Plant at Coking Plant  
Kokereiallee 71, 45141 Essen,  
Germany

free, 7 hours, a snack will be provided

Sun 16.10., 23.10., 30.10.\_11am–6pm

### EMSCHER SKETCHES: People and Places in the Emscher Valley

The entire EMSCHER SKETCHES film series will be shown for the first time at Zollverein. Christoph Hübner and Gabriele Voss produced numerous "film sketches" between 2006 and 2015 that focused on the people and places along the Emscher and the changes that took place as a result of the transformation. The films will be presented within the framework of a programme that will also include music, lectures and a panel discussion.

EMSCHER SKETCHES is presented by the Zollverein Foundation in cooperation with the Emschergenossenschaft.

### Film nights

Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hall 6

free, 3 hours

Tue 15.11., 22.11.\_6pm

### From the Köttelbecke to the restored floodplain: The Emscher in documentary films

Paul Hofmann from the Kinemathek im Ruhrgebiet presents selected films about the Emscher.

In cooperation with WDR and the Kinemathek im Ruhrgebiet.

### Bus excursions

Meeting point is Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site, Fritz-Schupp-Allee/bus stop bay, 45141 Essen  
Registration is required.

Thu 16.3.\_8.15am

### The eastern and central Emscher region: Dortmund – Gelsenkirchen – Bottrop

Thu 23.3.\_8.15am

### The western and central Emscher region: Oberhausen – Dinslaken – Bottrop

Located in the middle of the biggest conurbation in Europe, the Emschergenossenschaft pursues a water management approach that encompasses a great variety of tasks such as waste water treatment, the care and maintenance of waterways, the restructuring of open waste water canals in harmony with natural surroundings, flood protection, the regulation of water run-off and the management of groundwater and rainwater. The tours offer participants a look behind the scenes at the Emschergenossenschaft and open doors that otherwise remain closed. In cooperation with the Emschergenossenschaft.  
free, 7 hours

Sun 9.10.\_10am

### Castles and water mills in the eastern Emscher Valley

Sun 23.10.\_10am

### Castles and water mills in the western Emscher Valley

Two exciting bus excursions will take you to the castles and water mills along the Emscher. These are all-day tours that will be led by a tour guide. The excursions start and finish at Zollverein.

In cooperation with the zeitsprung agency.

€ 49 (incl. lunch without beverages), 8 hours

### **Bike tour**

Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site, Gelsenkirchener Str. 181, 45309 Essen

The meeting point is at the bottom of the escalator to the Ruhr Museum, free, 3 hours

Sun 9.10. \_2pm

#### **Emscher Art Trail –**

#### **Tour III SPECIAL Zollverein**

Monumental – from the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex to the Theatre of Plants: The tour begins at Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site, continues to the Emscher and from there in the direction of Bottrop to the works of art along the Emscher Art Trail.

Organised by the Zollverein Foundation in cooperation with the Emscher-genossenschaft and Urbane Künste Ruhr.

### **Offers for schools**

**ENG**

#### **Tours for school classes (starting at the lower secondary education level)**

€ 50, free admission, 1.5 hours., in German and English

The Visitor's Centre will be happy to answer any questions you may have about topics, tour group sizes, and reservations:

besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de

Mon–Fri 9am–4pm

Phone: +49 (0)201 24681 444

Preparation materials for teachers will be made available for download in September at [www.ruhrmuseum.de](http://www.ruhrmuseum.de)

## **Programmes for children and families**

### **Quiz for families**

**ENG**

free plus admission for adults, in German and English, approx. 1 hour, daily for children from 6 years of age  
The quiz lets families have fun while they learn about the entire special exhibition and the exciting history of the Emscher River.

Sun 13.11. \_3pm

#### **Blue wonder.**

#### **Tour for families and children**

Adults € 3 plus admission/children € 1, 1.5 hours

The Emscher River has been free of waste water and sewage since the end of 2021. Many interesting photos show the transformation of the murky waste water canal into a more natural-looking waterway.

Fri 18.11. \_3pm

#### **Reading Day**

free, 2 hours

The Ruhr Museum will participate in the National Read Day in Germany by telling exciting river stories – which fits in perfectly with the exhibition that focuses on the Emscher.

### **Everything flows**

#### **Holiday workshops**

Ruhr Museum, Coking Coal Bunker, for children between 9 and 12, € 20 per day

Please bring lunch/snacks and beverages for your children  
Autumn school holiday 2022

Wed 5.10., Thu 6.10. \_8am–4pm

Easter holiday 2023

Tue 4.4., Wed 5.4. \_8am–4pm

Rivers and their tributaries are the lifelines of the Earth.

How can water be filtered naturally, and what types of fish and other aquatic life live in clean rivers?

Curious and bright minds will find out the answers to these questions and many others when they take part in experiments and solve puzzles.



# Ruhr Museum

## Ruhr Museum address

in the Coal Washing Plant  
Zollverein UNESCO World  
Heritage Site  
Gelsenkirchener Straße 181  
D-45309 Essen

## Opening hours

Mon–Sun 10am–6pm,  
closed on 24., 25. and 31.12.

## Admission

€ 7, reduced € 4, children and  
young people under 18, as well  
as pupils and students under 25:  
free admission  
[www.tickets-ruhrmuseum.de](http://www.tickets-ruhrmuseum.de)

## Combined ticket

Reduced admission of € 4  
upon presentation of a ticket for  
the “Beyond Emscher” exhibition  
(until 6.11.2022), and vice versa.

## Beyond Emscher.

### Photographic Positions from the Present

Until 6.11.2022, daily from 11am to  
6pm, € 7, reduced € 4

The exhibition in the former Coking  
Plant at Zollverein shows contem-  
porary photographs of various loca-  
tions in the Emscher region that  
were taken by 17 photographers.  
[www.zollverein.de/emscher](http://www.zollverein.de/emscher)  
Exhibition organised by the Emscher-  
genossenschaft and the Zollverein  
Foundation.

## Information and registration

Ruhr Museum Visitor Service  
[besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de](mailto:besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de)  
Mon–Fri 9am–4pm  
Phone: +49 (0)201 24681 444  
[www.ruhrmuseum.de](http://www.ruhrmuseum.de)

## Address

Parking lots A1 and A2  
Fritz-Schupp-Allee, 45141 Essen

## How to get there

### Tram line 107

From Essen central station in the  
direction of Gelsenkirchen or from  
Gelsenkirchen central station  
in the direction of Essen until the  
“Zollverein” stop

### Bus line 183

From “Altenessen Bf” or “Zollverein-  
Nord” station to the “Kohlenwäsche”  
station

## Catalogue

288 pages, more than 370 images  
and illustrations, Klartext Verlag,  
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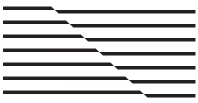
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Ruhr Museum



**The Emscher.  
Pictorial History  
of a River**

**12.9.22-16.4.23**

**Ruhr Museum**

**Zollverein**

**in Essen**

Swamp in the Mattlackgraben trench,  
the Hansa mine can be seen in the  
background, Dortmund, 1926  
Emschergenossenschaft, archive



The **history** of the Ruhr area is closely connected to the history of the **Emscher**. Although the Rhine-Westphalia industrial region is named after the Ruhr, it was the Emscher that perhaps played a more important role in ensuring the survival and expansion of this industrial and metropolitan area. During the second half of the 19th century, the growth of industry and the population in the region led to **untenable conditions in the “Wild West”** of the German Empire: Waste water was channelled into waterways without being treated – and especially into the river that had now been reached following the continuous northward expansion of industrialisation: the Emscher. Drinking water was contaminated, land caved in and sunk as a result of mining activities, and the lack of gradients in the Emscher and its tributaries led to flooding and the formation of swamps. Diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever and malaria raged among the population. In order to stop these abuses, the state of Prussia initiated a process in 1899 that led to the **establishment of the Emschergenossenschaft**, which was the first water management association in Germany. Municipalities and numerous companies joined the new cooperative.

Bochum water treatment plant,  
with the Imhoff tank under  
construction, circa 1907  
Emschergenossenschaft, archive



The **Emschergenossenschaft** started a **giant construction programme** that included the construction of pumping stations and waste water treatment plants. The Emscher system was also regulated by straightening the river and its streams and transforming them into a type of canal system encased in concrete shells in most cases. The Emscher was thus transformed into a “sewage river”, or – as people referred to it – a “**Köttelbecke**” (faeces stream). Water management then became a key factor in the further development of the Ruhr area, along with mining and the steel industry. The Emschergenossenschaft became a model for new cooperatives and associations that were subsequently established. With the end of industrialisation, a new chapter began and it took the form of a project for the **ecological transformation** of the Emscher system that was launched in the 1990s. Large segments of the river and its tributaries were restored to their natural state. Underground waste water canals were also built, thereby making it possible to stop the further influx of sewage into the Emscher.

Horst Castle prior to 1828,

painting, 1842

Archive of Hugenpoet Castle, Essen



This unique history is the focus of the **exhibition “The Emscher. Pictorial History of a River”**. The special exhibition in the Ruhr Museum at Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site presents images of the river in numerous settings, starting **from the pre-modern era and extending to the age of industrialisation and on to the present day**. Horses grazed in the Emscherbruch landscape, and even back in prehistoric times people lived along the river, which was teeming with fish. The Emscher could also be dangerous and cause hardship, however, especially because it often overflowed its banks and also wasn't navigable by ship. Moated castles and water mills were built on the Emscher and its tributaries in the Middle Ages: These structures shaped the cultural landscape, whose territorial borders were marked by the river. **Paintings, graphical depictions, maps and plans** present images and stories that reflect the wealth in the Emscher region in pre-industrial times. **Overview maps and construction and architectural drawings** that the Emschergenossenschaft commissioned at the beginning of the 20th century show the transformation into an industrial river.



The Borbecker Mühlenbach stream  
next to a school yard, Essen, 1955  
Emschergenossenschaft, archive



One of the key components of the exhibition are the **photographs from the Emschergenossenschaft archive**. The glass plate photography negatives section of the archive contains approximately 40,000 objects and is currently on loan to the Ruhr Museum's photo archive. The negatives document the cooperative's construction sites and were used to support project planning activities and the monitoring of construction measures. The negatives archive is also a photographic and social-historical treasure that reveals the development of settlements and industry in the Ruhr area over a **period of more than 100 years**. The photographs show an **enormous landscape transformation** – landscapes shaped by humans but also destroyed. Highlights here include panoramic photographs and before-and-after shots that document the changes made along the way. The historical images also show the technical feats the Emschergenossenschaft achieved with its buildings and facilities. This also applies to human achievements, as the photos make clear just how much hard physical labour was required to complete all of the cooperative's projects.

Emscher conversion experimental

track, Dortmund-Deusen, 2017

Jannis Reichard /

Emschergenossenschaft



The photographs, which were taken from 2000 onwards, document the **transformation of an entire region** and were also used for public relations to communicate the results of its work. The amazing pictures were taken by photographers from the Emschergenossenschaft and by commissioned photographers. The Emschergenossenschaft is now using technically advanced methods to document its construction activities in the 21st century. These methods include 3D scanning, virtual reality and augmented reality. The photographs taken by **Henning Maier-Jantzen** over 10 years play a special role, as they make use and functions of the transformed Emscher understandable in a larger context. The pictorial history of the Emscher includes photography projects that the cooperative implemented with amateurs, students and artists, whereby the film project the **“EMSCHER SKETCHES”** was also created by the award-winning filmmakers **Christoph Hübner and Gabriele Voss**. New areas of activity include climate adaptation and biodiversity projects, as well as the Emscherkunstweg, bike paths and trails and social projects.