

**THE**  **NEW**   
**SCHAU**  **DEPOT**  
Book guided tours at [www.ruhrmuseum.de](http://www.ruhrmuseum.de)  
**OF**  **THE**  **RUHR**  
**MUSEUM**  **AT**  
**ZOLL**  **VEREIN**  
**IN**  **ESSEN** 



Ruhr Museum



Neck amphora, Late Archaic, c. 510 BC.  
© Ruhr Museum; Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

**The architecture** The purpose-built building from the 1960s appears rather inconspicuous from the outside. The imposing interior architecture provides the basis for a spectacular presentation of the Ruhr Museum's collections. Behind the façade, two 18-metre-high atriums and the impressive concrete skeleton structure with its connecting bridges open up. This interior architecture, which corresponds to the production process of a salt factory, was completely preserved, as well as the massive traces of industrial production. The special internal structure of the building allows unique views into and across the atriums to the other floor sections and other levels of the building, thus creating a fantastic spatial experience.



View into the Schaudapot of the Ruhr Museum  
© Ruhr Museum; Photo: Brigida González

**The Schaudepot** The Ruhr Museum's new central depot and Schaudepot is a museum storage facility in the spectacular industrial setting of the former salt factory on the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein. The Ruhr Museum deposits and presents parts of its natural science, archaeological and historical collections. On guided tours, visitors can wander through over a hundred years of the history of the collection, get to know key objects and at the same time take a look behind the scenes and at the working methods of a large museum of natural and cultural history. The Schaudepot is clearly different from classical museums, since it does not present an exhibition on specific topics but rather the collections, which are arranged according to specific criteria. It serves as a repository for future exhibitions and impressively illustrates the three main tasks of a museum: collecting, preserving and researching.

**Nature, culture, history** The path through the Ruhr Museum's Schaudepot runs from top to bottom. The panorama lift takes visitors up to the top level with spectacular views of the individual



Parade helmet (morion), Northern Italy, around 1580/90

© Ruhr Museum; Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

floors and their different collections. From there, the path leads over the three levels to the nature, culture and history back to the ground floor. The travel of time begins chronologically with the oldest items in the natural science collections and leads via archaeology and the pre-modern collections of the Middle Ages and early modern times to the area of industrial and contemporary history of the last 200 years.

**Nature** On the first level, "Nature", the presentation of the natural science collections is divided into the areas of "inanimate nature" with raw materials and rocks, and "animate nature", i.e. fossils ranging from bacterial colonies to plants and vertebrates. In addition to giant crystals, large ammonites, a giant tree and the marine reptile wall, very important individual collections, such as the Wuppertal Fuhlrott collection with the special thunder horse and parts of the Vester plant collection with its dry and wet preparations, will be on public display. One of the highlights is certainly the presentation of the extensive ammonite collection of the museum.



Etruscan bucchero-cantharos, Vulci, 630–575 B.C.

© Ruhr Museum; Photo: Rainer Rothenberg



Roller player "Edison Home Phonograph", Cologne, 1904  
© Ruhr Museum; Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

**Culture** On the middle level, "Culture", with the areas of archaeology, the Middle Ages and pre-modern times, an extensive display and study collection of over a hundred skull replicas impressively illustrates the transition from natural to human-influenced cultural history. The skulls represent more than two million years of human history. In addition, a large number of prehistoric and early historic clay and glass vessels as well as objects made of wood, illustrate the typical material composition of an archaeological and pre-modern collection. They divide the level into the departments of ceramics, glass, stone and furniture, household goods, agriculture and handicrafts – from the ancient advanced civilisations thousands of years ago to the early modern period before industrialisation.



Punch clock, Württembergische Uhrenfabrik Bürk,  
Schwennigen am Neckar, 1950–1969  
© Ruhr Museum; Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

**History** The industrial and contemporary history department of the Ruhr Area in particular, which is located on the lower level "History", divides the object worlds less by their materiality, but rather by aspects of content. In addition to areas such as everyday life, leisure time, household and handicrafts, the legacies of mining, iron and steel as well as the phenomena of religion, war, representation and childhood. Throughout the tour, the open architecture creates not only close-up perspectives of the objects, but also inspiring and curiosity-awakening distant perspectives of the collection holdings on the other levels, which reveal new insights and surprising connections between the collections and their history.

**The Salt Factory** The conversion of the salt factory on the coking plant of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein into the new Schaudapot of the Ruhr Museum was funded within the framework of the "National Project of Urban Development" programme. It is one of the seventeen projects funded by the federal government, "which have a model character and radiate beyond regional and even national borders". The salt factory was built in 1959 as a production and processing facility as part of the coking plant complex planned by Fritz Schupp and went into operation in 1961. The by-products of the coking process were widely used by the chemical industry, including ammonia and sulphuric acid, as basic materials for salt. In 1993, the salt factory was finally shut down. In 2017, the Darmstadt-based architectural firm Planinghaus took over the conversion of the building. The interior was designed by the office südstudio of Stuttgart. The Schaudapot also marks the end of the Ruhr Museum's move to the Zollverein World Heritage Site in 2021 with its exhibitions, functional rooms and depots.



Lead slag, North Rhine-Westphalia, Ruhr Area,  
Essen-Frintrop

© Ruhr Museum; Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

## The offers

The Schaudepot can only be visited on guided tours. Each tour lasts 90 minutes.

### Public guided tours

The tour leads to the key pieces of the three large collections on natural science, archaeology and history. It offers the unique opportunity to discover the fascinating exhibits and the history of the collections, which were created over 100 years ago and to learn a lot about the work of a regional museum.

Every Saturday, Sunday and on holidays, 11am and 3pm

### Curator`s tour

How does an object get into the collection or the museum? What does a museum researcher actually do? Take a look behind the scenes of the respective collection in the guided tour and learn from a curator about the development of the concept and its implementation up to the opening.

Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 3.30pm

### Guided tours for seniors

With a folding chair and enough time, the lift will take you to the most beautiful pieces in the collections, which represent the Regional Museum`s history of collecting. Among them are also numerous pieces that some

of the visitors even remember themselves.

Every 1st Saturday of the month, 3.30pm

### Guided tours for families

Giant crystals or a coal wagon parade: Together with a guide, families with children aged 6 and over discover the nature, culture and history of the Ruhr Area and learn more about the collection and museum work by means of selected objects.

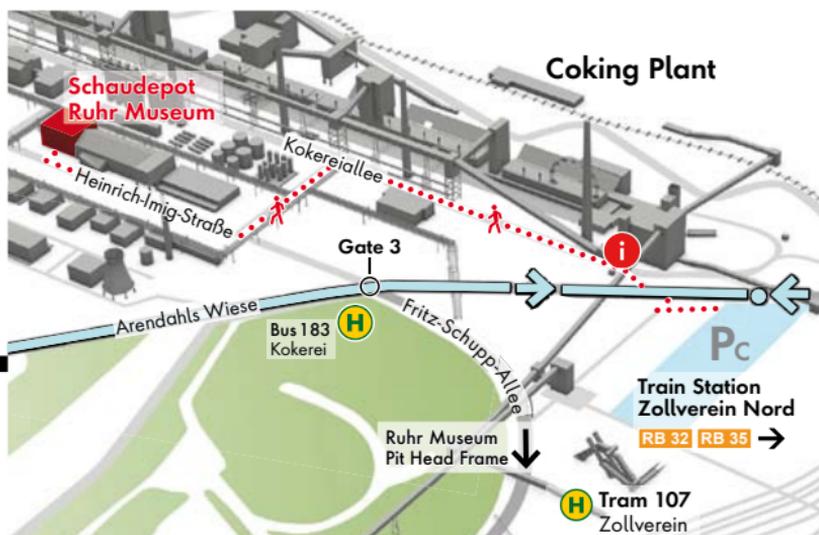
Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.30pm

### Guided tours for school classes

How does a museum work? Why do you need a collection? Pupils are vividly immersed into the everyday work of a museum and learn a lot about the history of the Ruhr Area on the basis of selected objects. The large number and variety of forms of the exhibits stimulates the imagination and the spirit of research. Clarify bookings by arrangement with the Ruhr Museum Visitor Service.

### Individual group tours

130 € incl. admission; 140 € Guided tours in foreign languages (English and Dutch) on request; 50 € for schoolchildren and student groups; 60 € for foreign language pupils and student groups.



### Information and advice

For questions about guided tours and your visit contact the Ruhr Museum Visitor Service.

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Phone +49 (0)201 24681444

[besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de](mailto:besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de)

[www.ruhrmuseum.de](http://www.ruhrmuseum.de)

### Costs for Public guided tours

10 € p.p.; 7 € reduced, 3 € for children and young people under 18 years as well as pupils and students under 25 years

### Tickets and tours online

Tickets for the guided tours only at [www.tickets-ruhrmuseum.de](http://www.tickets-ruhrmuseum.de)

### Meeting point

Schaudepot Ruhr Museum, Salt Factory  
UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein  
Heinrich-Imig-Strasse 9  
45141 Essen

### Directions

#### Public transport

183 to bus stop Zollverein coking plant  
Tram 107 to stop Zollverein

#### By bike

Bicycle stand info point coking plant

#### By car

Free car park C (Address Arendahls Wiese)  
Zollverein parking deck for a fee (Address Im Welterbe 11)

#### Postal address

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