


World Heritage Site Völklinger Hütte

2025 Program



The image shows a vast industrial complex, the Völklinger Hütte, during a dramatic sunset. The sky is a mix of deep blues, purples, and oranges. In the foreground, there's a dense network of metal beams and pipes, some forming large circular structures. A small brick building with a white door is visible in the middle ground. The background is dominated by several tall, cylindrical chimneys and large, complex structures with multiple levels of pipes and walkways. The overall scene is one of industrial grandeur and historical significance.

The World Heritage Site Völklinger Hütte 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, is now a truly wild PARADISE garden.

**The Ironworks
once and now**

A large, dark, industrial flywheel is the central focus of the image. It is situated in a vast, high-ceilinged industrial building with a complex steel truss roof structure. The floor is a checkered tile pattern. To the left, a large poster for a film by Fritz Lang is visible. The overall atmosphere is one of industrial heritage and historical preservation.


A monument of industrial culture

The historical facilities of pig iron production are completely preserved and accessible at the Völklinger Hütte. More than seven kilometres of visitor paths lead to milestones in technological history, such as the Inclined Ore Lift, the Sinter Plant, or the enormous flywheels of the blower machines. Special tours of the site take visitors to the lofty heights of the Concrete Coal Tower and to a discovery of hidden treasures of industrial heritage such as the Dry Gas Purification Plant and the Blast Furnace Control Station.



Events and festivals

As an arts location, the Völklinger Hütte is constantly reinventing itself: major exhibitions, festivals, theatre productions and concerts all interact with the aura of this spectacular industrial site to produce a succession of extraordinary artistic experiences. In 2025, our crossover festival 1200° will be held for the second time. Highlights include a participative dance production by French choreographer Pierre Rigal and literary readings specialty for and performed at the Charging Platform, the Concrete Coal Tower and PARADISE.



A moving place of remembrance

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

In Paradise

In PARADISE, it is fascinating to observe how diverse flora and fauna have recaptured parts of the facility. Here fish and frogs now meet foxes and wild boars. Where once there was only heat, dust and fire, today birches and butterfly bushes bloom. Winding paths lead to works of art such as Ottmar Hörl's monumental 10-meter-high sculpture "KingKong" and an urban art leopard by the artist Mosko.



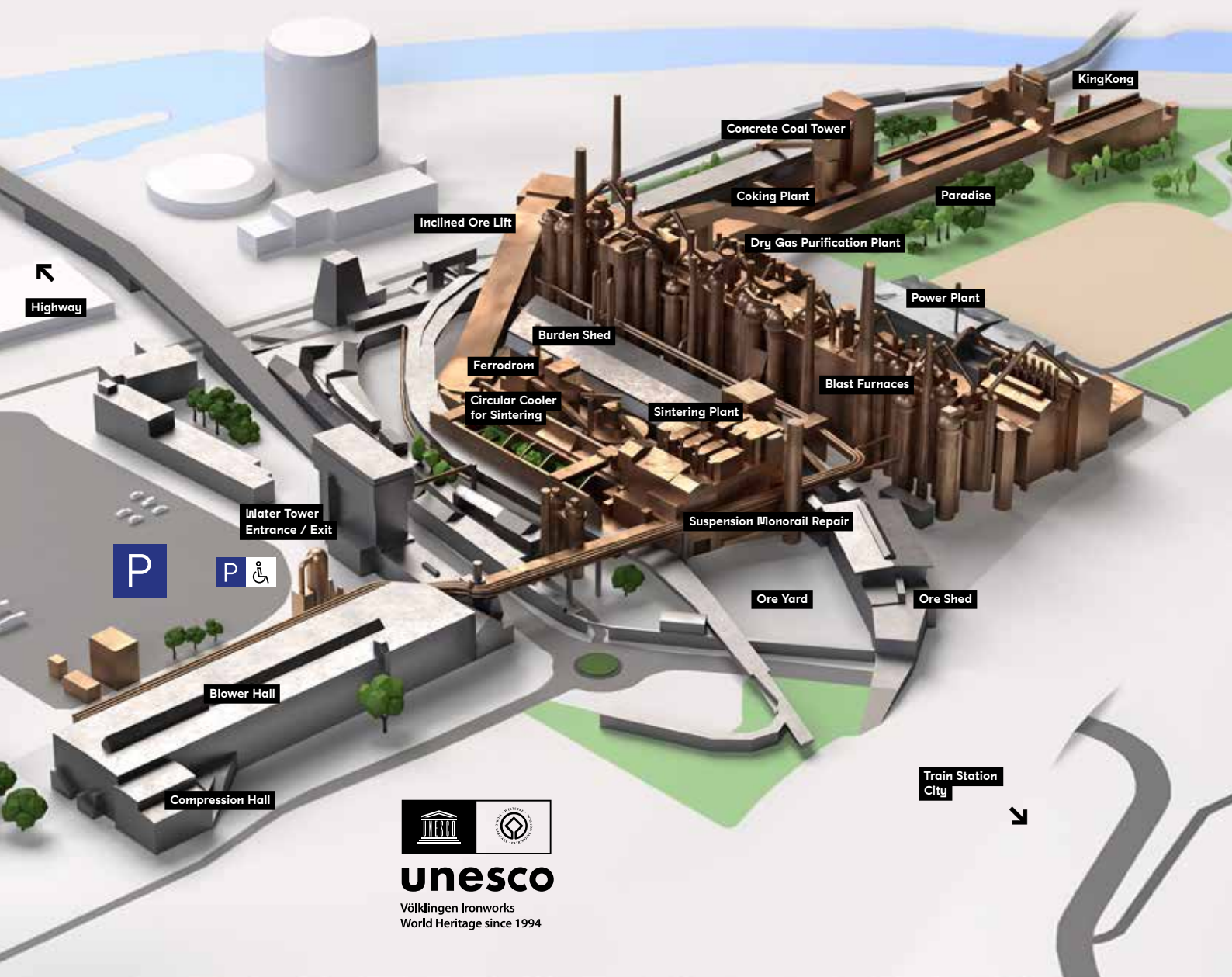
The image shows a large, three-dimensional sculpture of the words "The End" in a cursive font. The sculpture is made of a material that reflects light, creating a shimmering, iridescent effect. It is suspended from the ceiling of a dark, industrial interior space, possibly a factory or a museum. The background is filled with dark wooden beams and structural elements, with some light coming from windows in the distance. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and artistic.

The End

Parcours of the arts

Within the expansive grounds of the World Heritage Site, alongside Rémy Markowitsch's installation WE ALL (Except the Others) where one encounters the history of Völklingen and the ironworks in the Suspension Monorail Repair, there are also plenty of site-specific artworks and installations to discover, such as ZEVS's PERPETUAL ENDING. You will be surprised!

INDUSTRY CULTURE HISTORY ART NATURE



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Völklingen Ironworks
World Heritage since 1994

New perspectives

Once a dream, now a reality: the creation of a new entrance portal in the Water Tower gives visitors access to an important and spectacular example of industrial culture. Indeed, the very first step into the spacious entrance hall and the walkway across the amazing machinery of the Pumping Station provide an architectural treat. On the second floor of the Water Tower, the exhibition MOTION POWERS HISTORY offers new perspectives on the movement of raw materials, people and products that was so vital to the history of the ironworks.





THE TRUE SIZE OF AFRICA

9.11.2024


17.8.2025

Exactly 140 years ago, in November 1884, the Berlin Conference was opened, which divided up Africa among the colonial powers without any African participation: Reason enough to take a different look in 2024 at this huge continent and the people who come from it. **THE TRUE SIZE OF AFRICA** tests approaches that identify traditions of thought, prejudices and stereotypes and enable new perspectives – by means of cultural history and contemporary art, through constant changes of perspective and artistic polyphony.

While a **MUSEUM OF MEMORABILITY** reflects on Africa's past and present from the perspective of colonial Europe, African sculptures and objects from private collections in Saarland enter into a dialogue with the machines and flywheels of the historic Blower Hall. Major artworks from recent decades are paired with sound and spatial installations realised especially for the show by artists from Africa and the global diaspora, all of which explore **THE TRUE SIZE OF AFRICA**. For the first time ever at the World Heritage Site – and in keeping with a subject of this magnitude – the exhibition will stretch from the Pumping Station through the Blower Hall and Compressor Hall and on to the Sintering Plant and Ore Shed.

ADEYEMO
AKOMFRAH
ATKINSON
BALOJI
BASSÉNE
BIWA
CAMPOS-PONS
CATPC
DIOP
DOUGLAS-CAMP
KENTRIDGE
KONGO ASTRONAUTS
MATIENZO
MIVEKANNIN
MUHOLI
NTJAM
NYAMAI
OGBOH
SEDIRA
SEGHIR
SHONIBARE
THE SINGH TWINS
TOBE
WALKER
WEEMS





JAMOUL AYA NA,
TEY LADHIETEOUL
A KO RAW.

NOT TO KNOW IS
BAD, NOT TO
WISH TO KNOW
IS WORSE.

Wolof Proverb

X-RAY

**X-ray Vision in
Art, Science,
Film, Fashion and
Architecture**
9.11.2025
16.8.2026

The discovery of X-rays was a scientific and technological sensation. At the time, it was the most spectacular result of an ongoing quest, pursued around 1900, to uncover that which remains invisible to the human eye. This is an idea that has continued to inspire artists to this day – the belief that individual (or, indeed, supra-individual) identity is only revealed beneath the surface. On show in the atmospheric Blower Hall, this fascinating exhibition presents a wide variety of X-ray systems, ranging from the Pedoscope shoe fitter to X-ray satellite technology, as well as an exploration of the creative uses of X-rays in art, advertising, fashion and cinema– Catwalk meets X-ray chapel. X-RAY is the first ever exhibition dedicated to the phenomenon of X-rays and the wide-ranging cultural significance of X-ray vision.



World Heritage Site Völklinger Hütte

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Europäisches Zentrum für Kunst und Industriekultur GmbH
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Managing Director Susanne Degenhardt
Rathausstrasse 75 – 79
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Entrance

Standard 17 €
Reduced rate 15 €
2-day ticket 27 €
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 – 6 pm / 1 April to 31 October 10 am – 7 pm
Open on Boxing Day and New Year's Day
24, 25 and 31 December closed

Public guided tours at www.voelklinger-huette.org

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 55 €

Visitor Service

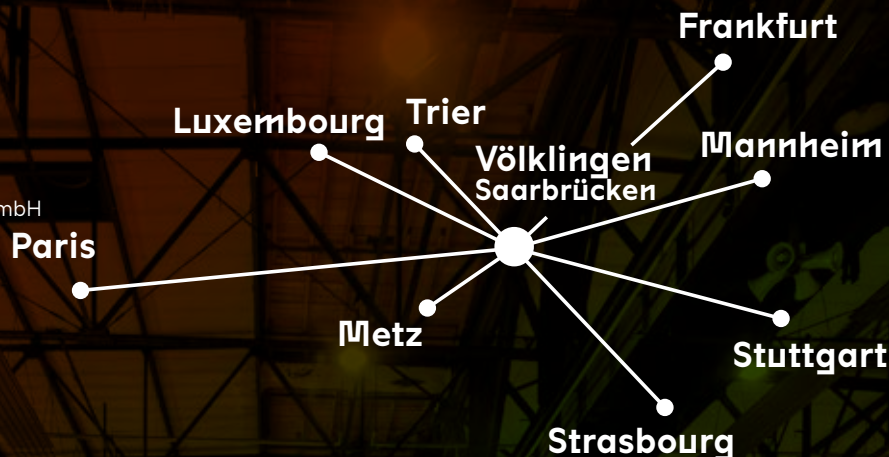
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Imprint

© 2024 Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte
Europäisches Zentrum für Kunst und Industriekultur GmbH
Publisher: Dr. Ralf Beil
Editor: Jocelyne Pallu
Wording: Armin Leidinger
Translation: Brovot & Kloess
Concept and design: Dubbel Späth GmbH & Co. KG
Production: Repa Druck GmbH, Ensheim
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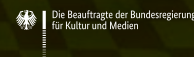
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NATURE



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World Heritage since 1994