

## Zeche Zollverein

The Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex is a large former industrial site in the city of Essen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. The first coal mine on the premises was founded in 1847, and mining activities took place from 1851 until December 23, 1986. For decades, starting in the late 1950s, the two parts of the site, Zollverein Coal Mine and Zollverein Coking Plant (erected 1957–1961, closed on June 30, 1993), ranked among the largest of their kinds in Europe. Shaft 12, built in the New Objectivity style, was opened in 1932 and is considered an architectural and technical masterpiece, earning it a reputation as the "most beautiful coal mine in the world". Because of its architecture and testimony to the development of heavy industry in Europe, the industrial complex was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on December 14, 2001, and is one of the anchor points of the European Route of Industrial Heritage.

The Ruhr Museum in the former Coal Washery, located on the UNESCO World Heritages Site Zollverein, is the regional museum of the Ruhr Area. In its permanent exhibition the Ruhr Museum presents, with over 6,000 exhibits, the fascinating history of one of the largest industrial regions of the world, from the formation of coal 300 million years ago to the current structural change towards the Ruhr Metropolis. The Ruhr Museum has extensive collections on the geology, archaeology, industrial and social history as well as photography of the Ruhr Area. In addition to its permanent exhibition, the Ruhr Museum regularly shows special exhibitions and offers a diverse program with workshops, guided tours, excursions, lectures, movie nights, audio guides and the museum bag for families.

University Alliance Ruhr was delighted to host the welcome dinner for the Germany Today delegates at the historic site and provided a private tour.

---

### Contact:

University Alliance Ruhr  
871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017  
[www.northamerica.uaruhr.de](http://www.northamerica.uaruhr.de)

Dr. Barbara Schneider  
TU Dortmund International Office  
Email: [barbara.schneider@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:barbara.schneider@tu-dortmund.de)  
[www.international.tu-dortmund.de/en/](http://www.international.tu-dortmund.de/en/)