



LUISE'S HEATING UP

Fire, water, earth, air, red-hot iron and the ring of the anvil – many associations to the Luisehütte smelt mill are condensed to an overall work of art at the culture festival known as “Luise heizt ein”, which translates as “Luise’s heating up”! This popular annual event has been held since 2006, usually just before the summer holidays. Harmonious light art, stunning theatre productions, temperamental musical compositions and imaginative acrobatics appeal to all the senses. Thematically related educational museum events are also on offer with entertaining hands-on activities for children and teens. The festival is part of the “Live in the Factory” programme jointly initiated by the network “WaterIronLand – Industrial Culture in South Westphalia”. Admission is free!



OTHER EVENTS

Opening the Season

At the beginning of May, the Luisehütte smelt mill and the Municipal Museum of Balve awaken from their winter sleep. This is celebrated with a season opening held on a Sunday in the first half of May. There are demonstrations of handcrafts, lots of activities for kids to join in, musical entertainment, culinary offerings and special items on the programme focusing on “Nature meets Technology”. All of this is aimed at delighting visitors – and admission is free.



Children's Halloween

At the end of October, the Luisehütte is a great venue for children to celebrate Halloween. You only get onto the guest-list if you book in advance. The number of young guests is limited to 100 children aged between eight and twelve. At the spooky party, it is critical not to lose your nerves when the smelt mill sinks into eerie darkness and mist forms inside. Horrors can lurk behind every corner. The scary circuit is equipped with lots of technical refinements. Anyone wanting something to eat and drink can fortify themselves at the “Horror Bar” with food and beverages to suit the occasion. And the kids can of course come dressed up!



FRIENDS' SOCIETY LUISEHÜTTE

Förderverein Luisehütte – Verein zur Pflege der technischen Denkmäler in Balve e.V. is the official name for the Friends' Society of the Luisehütte smelt mill – society for the preservation of technical monuments in Balve. It offers free admission to both museums for its members with accompanying persons and young children who belong to the family. The society played a major role in transforming this national heritage monument into an experience museum and in the creation of the technical playground known as “Kleine Luise” or Little Luise. It supports the preservation of the smelt mill with enormous commitment and is also involved in operating the mill. The society promotes cultural events at the Luisehütte and organises guided tours every last Sunday in the month, free of charge. And once a year there is an invitation to an interesting talk given at its general meeting. Why not become a member of the Friends' Society Luisehütte as well?



Förderverein Luisehütte e.V.

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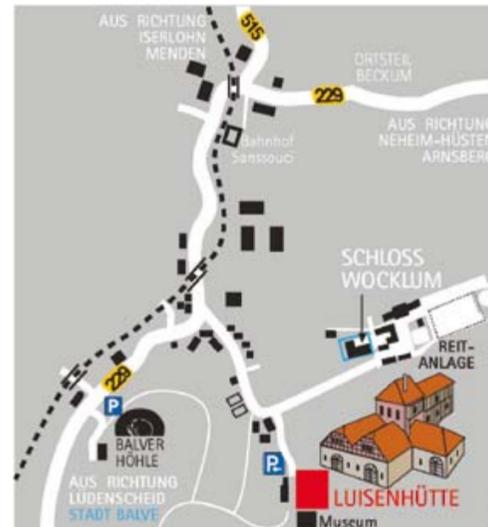
GETTING THERE

By car and coach From the west and north-west: A 46, exit 49 – Hemer, then via Hemer-Deilinghofen to Balve. From the north-east and east: A 46, exit 63 – Neheim-Süd, via Neheim-Süd and Herdringen to Balve. From the south: A 45, exit 14 – Lüdenscheid, via Werdohl to Balve. From Sorpesee: from Langscheid or Amecke or via Mellen towards Balve. Follow the signs in Balve (GPS: “Wocklum 10”). There are parking facilities for cars and coaches right at the Luisehütte.

By train Balve station and Sanssouci station on the railway line Fröndenberg to Neuenrade. Train schedule: www.bahn.de

Bus stop Helle: 132, 137 towards Balve and Balve-Eisborn, Mondays to Fridays only. Bus schedule: www.mvg-online.de

Citizens' bus (Bürgerbus) Balve No. 3, bus stop Helle, only Mondays to Fridays and on Saturday mornings. Schedule: www.mvg-online.de



VISITOR INFOS

Luisehütte Smelt Mill Wocklum
Wocklum 10 (turn-off from Wocklumer Allee)
D-58802 Balve-Wocklum

Opening hours

Between 1st May and 31st October
Tue. – Fri. 9.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat., Sun., public holidays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Closed on Mondays, except public holidays, and also between 1st November and 30th April

Free admission on the following days

International Museum Day, Open Monument Day

To get info or book guided tours

Tel. +49(0)2352 966-7034
Info at weekends and on public holidays:
Tel. +49(0)2375 3134 (May to October)
museen@maerkischer-kreis.de
www.maerkischer-kreis.de/kultur-freizeit/luisehuette/

Combined tickets

The admission tickets are also valid for the Balve Municipal Museum for Prehistoric and Early History situated adjacent to the Luisehütte smelt mill.

Balve Municipal Museum for Prehistoric and Early History

is located in the building of the former Wocklum rod hammer mill at the Luisehütte
Opening hours as for the Luisehütte
For information or to book guided tours:
Tel. +49(0)2375 9372841 (May to October)
Tel. +49(0)2375 9372838 (November to April)
museumbalve@gmail.com

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LUISEHÜTTE SMELT MILL WOCKLUM

A unique gem of pre-industrial iron-making is to be found right in the middle of the Sauerland region. The smelt mill in Balve-Wocklum is operated by water power and charcoal and still fully preserved. Founded in 1748 and shut down in 1865, the Luisehütte smelt mill is a national heritage monument. In the interactive museum you experience with all your senses how iron was smelted and made into cast products. Round off your visit in the “Hüttenschänke” tavern, at the “Kleine Luise” adventure playground, and with cave bears and dinosaurs at the Municipal Museum of Balve.



LUISEHÜTTE SMELT MILL WOCKLUM

WATER, STEAM
AND RED-HOT IRON





LUISENHÜTTE SMELT MILL WOCKLUM WATER, STEAM AND RED-HOT IRON

Luisenhütte Smelt Mill

Water power and charcoal were the energy sources for the pre-industrial Luisenhütte smelt mill which went into operation in 1758. In 1854/55 the aristocratic entrepreneurial von Landsberg-Velen family modernised their ironworks with the very latest technology at the time. The smelting furnace was enlarged, a cowper blast air heater was installed and the casting house extended. The main innovation was a steam-powered blowing engine to supplement the water wheel which drove two piston blowers. It supplied the furnace with wind when the Borkebach stream had low water. Despite all these investments, the mill had to be shut down in 1865. The competition in the Ruhr District, where furnaces ran on hard coal coke, had become too great. Since 1950, the Luisenhütte has been open to the public as an industrial heritage monument. Between 2004 and 2006 it was lovingly restored and transformed into an experience museum where the making of crude iron and cast products is shown vividly, impacting all the senses.



EXPERIENCE A SHIFT IN THE SMELTING MILL

The visitors' tour follows the route the raw materials took through the mill. Incoming supplies were controlled and recorded by the mill clerk in his little office. At the iron-ore stores, visitors can lift wheelbarrows filled with iron ore, charcoal and limestone. It gets really warm above the mouth of the furnace where a film shows mill-hands charging the furnace from above. Ten metres below, the process of tapping the raw iron, called pig, is convincingly simulated by lighting effects, radiators and film scenes: red-hot iron flows into the pig bed. In the blower house, the water-wheel for generating wind and the steam-powered blower are started up with much noise by pressing a button. Light installations in the casting house make sure you get the impression of smelting furnaces in operation and of having just cast gear wheels and other iron castings.



MULTIMEDIA EXPERIENCE

Finally, the experience can be deepened in the earlier mill foreman's accommodation. In the cinema on the ground floor, the film "Am Feuerstrom des Eisens" (Fiery Stream of Iron) from 1952 compares the Luisenhütte with an industrial blast furnace mill. On the floor above, four models visualise the most significant methods of smelting since the Middle Ages. The highlight is an interactive media table showing all the production steps at the Luisenhütte as a computer animation in moving pictures with 3D effect. On the top floor, you can see much more than just historical plans and drawings: in a small gallery with ancestral portraits, the well-known expert on nobility, Rolf Seelmann-Eggebert, tells the exciting story of the aristocratic owners, the von Landsberg-Velen family.



MUSEUM EDUCATION

Programmes that can be Booked at any Time

"From Iron Ore to Waffle Iron" is the name of an action-packed programme for school classes and children's birthdays. The children follow the progress of iron from ore to the finished product. In the process, they take on the role of mill-hands. The "Fire and Tin Workshop" is another experience that is exciting for small groups and children's birthdays. Guided tours for adults can also be booked – they are ideal for combining with a tour around the lovely "Schloss Wocklum" mansion. Every last Sunday of the month, the Friends' Society offers free tours at 2 p.m. and at 4 p.m. – only the admission fee has to be paid.



Summer Holiday Offer for Children

During the summer holidays, the Luisenhütte offers children a journey back in time. In a historical game they make first-hand acquaintance with life in past centuries and are immersed in history for four days. Each child takes on the role of a person who lived at the time, learns various handcrafts and finds out a lot about the social framework in bygone times.



EXPERIENCE PLAYGROUND LITTLE LUISE



After their visit to the Luisenhütte smelt mill, families with children simply have to stop at "Kleine Luise". On this industrial playground, young visitors can relive what they have seen in the industrial monument on a fun level. The central point is a replica of the blast furnace measuring over six metres in height. The children can climb up the furnace by the steep charging ramp. Then it gets really thrilling when they start the long slide downwards in the dark, accompanied by light effects that simulate the fire in the smelting furnace. After that, there are three wheelbarrows waiting to be used for muscle training. The casting house is especially exciting for smaller visitors to the playground: at the mud table they can cast gear wheels or other castings using the right mixture of water and sand. Besides all this, the water wheel makes a wonderful climbing frame.



"HÜTTENSCHÄNKE" MILL TAVERN

The former labourers' dwelling at the Luisenhütte smelt mill is now used as the Mill Tavern. The simple but hearty atmosphere welcomes guests to coffee and cake, ice cream and snacks. Directly in front of the main building there is a beer garden which is open whenever the weather is fine enough. From there you can keep an eye on the industrial playground and relax while the children are enjoying themselves.



E-Bike Station

The Luisenhütte smelt mill is surrounded by numerous hiking and cycling routes. Close to the tavern there is a charging point for electric bikes. So charging your battery can easily be combined with a visit to the Luisenhütte smelting mill or the tavern.

BALVE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM FOR PREHISTORIC AND EARLY HISTORY

Beside the Luisenhütte smelt mill, in the former rod forging hammer mill in Wocklum, the Balve Municipal Museum for Prehistoric and Early History offers a journey through 400 million years into the past. Under the motto "Treasures of the Earth – Traces of Mankind" the exhibition gives insights into natural and human history in the Hönnetal – the valley where the River Hönn flows. Theme islands present the main periods and turning points – from the Devonian Age, when Balve was still at the bottom of a shallow tropical sea, to iron-making in the Middle Ages. The museum also shows how people have benefited up to the present time from the "earth's treasures" in Balve. The exhibits bear witness to the trans-regional significance of Balve as a discovery site for prehistoric and early historical finds. The remains of dinosaurs and other fossils from reef limestone, animal bones from the Ice Age, and Stone Age tools and weapons from the caves in the Hönnetal continue to provide new evidence of former living conditions.

