OPENING, PRICES AND CONTACT

Opening hours
Tue - Sun 10:00 - 18:00
Last admission 17:00

Admission prices
- Adults 4 €
- Children, concessions, groups (more than 10 persons) 3 €
- Children up to 6 free admission
- Family ticket 12 €
- Children in school groups 2 €
- Educational programme without final discussion 15 € + admission
- Educational programme with final discussion 25 € + admission
- Introductory talk 10 €
- A combined ticket for the Aquarius Museum + Haus Ruhrmatur 5 € / 4 €

Educational programmes and guided tours by arrangement.

Groups must book in advance.

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AQUARIUS WASSERMUSEUM

From a storehouse of water to a storehouse of knowledge
In 1892/93 August Thyssen built this water tower in order to ensure a continual supply of water to his rolling mills and collieries. The design, modelled on a defence tower, was typical of early industrial architecture. The 35 meter high water container could hold 500,000 litres of water. In 1912 Thyssen gave up all his water businesses on the River Ruhr, and the water tower passed into the hands of the newly founded RWW Rheinland-Westfälische Wasserwerksgesellschaft mbH, the largest water supplier in the region. Until 1982 the tower supplied water to the town of Mülheim an der Ruhr for industrial and domestic purposes. The Aquarius Water Museum opened in 1992 after it had previously been listed as a protected building.

Valuing water – protecting water
Water is life. This is not a new insight. Nonetheless the extent to which this life-giving elixir is dependent on its quality and continuous availability can all too easily be forgotten. RWW’s decided to set up its own museum, because it was all too aware of the huge need for enlightening and educating the general public about protecting water. The aim of the museum is to encourage the general public to campaign for ecological issues relating to water, on a local, regional and global basis.
Hightech + art
There are many sides to water, but it is very difficult to exhibit them. In order to show as much information about water as possible, RWW has elected to use multimedia resources. Many hours of film and a vast amount of animations can be called up by visitors with the help of a chip card. The card also stores the points visitors can collect from quizzes and simulations. Some other stopping points along the way are embedded in sculptures created by the artist Thomas Schindauer.

Learning from water
The Aquasphere leads you optically and acoustically into the multifaceted world of water. A gigantic globe of water – groundwater – is presented in all its different manifestations. A laboratory explains the different physical and chemical properties of H₂O. Water towers, canals, dams, waterworks and wells are also elucidated. An installation entitled “Source” deals with religion, mythology, culture, and art. The River Ruhr runs directly outside the front door to the museum, and every visitor can experience this more vividly on an adventure journey. One floor of the museum is given over to the key role of water in industrial history. One of these stopping points entitled the changing Ruhrgebiet recounts the history and stories of the area on a large screen. You can also travel in a zeppelin to the World Water Conference, at which you can join children from different continents, go in search of water problems and try to come up with solutions. On the same level there is a section dealing with the history and functions of Dams. Two stopping points entitled Waterworks and Clarification plants provide information on drinking water treatment and distribution, as well as waste water treatment. On the ground floor a new exhibition unit is being prepared on the theme of Virtual Water. Prepare to be surprised about the contents!

The museum as a classroom
School students from the third year in primary school onwards can visit the Aquarius Water Museum and involve themselves in an interactive manner with classroom themes like water supplies, ecology, industrial and cultural history, and environmental protection. Educational preseminars, methodical advice and results at the end of the visit, all contribute to helping children understand more about the importance of water as a vital source of nourishment and their own role in protecting it. Practical experiments are also included in the range of offers.

Leisure and Industrial heritage
The Aquarius Water Museum is one of the 23 anchor points along the Industrial Heritage Trail – alongside other major attractions like the Zollverein World Heritage site in Essen. Aquarius is also the starting point for its own particular theme route on the past and present of the Ruhr. The highly popular Ruhr Valley cycle trail leads directly past the museum.

More than just a museum
The Aquarius Forum – it used to be a chapel belonging to an old mansion – can be hired for small conferences and receptions. It is also possible to get married here. Indeed many couples have already done so. In addition the chapel can be hired for children’s birthday parties, when it can be turned into a water research laboratory – or even a detective agency.