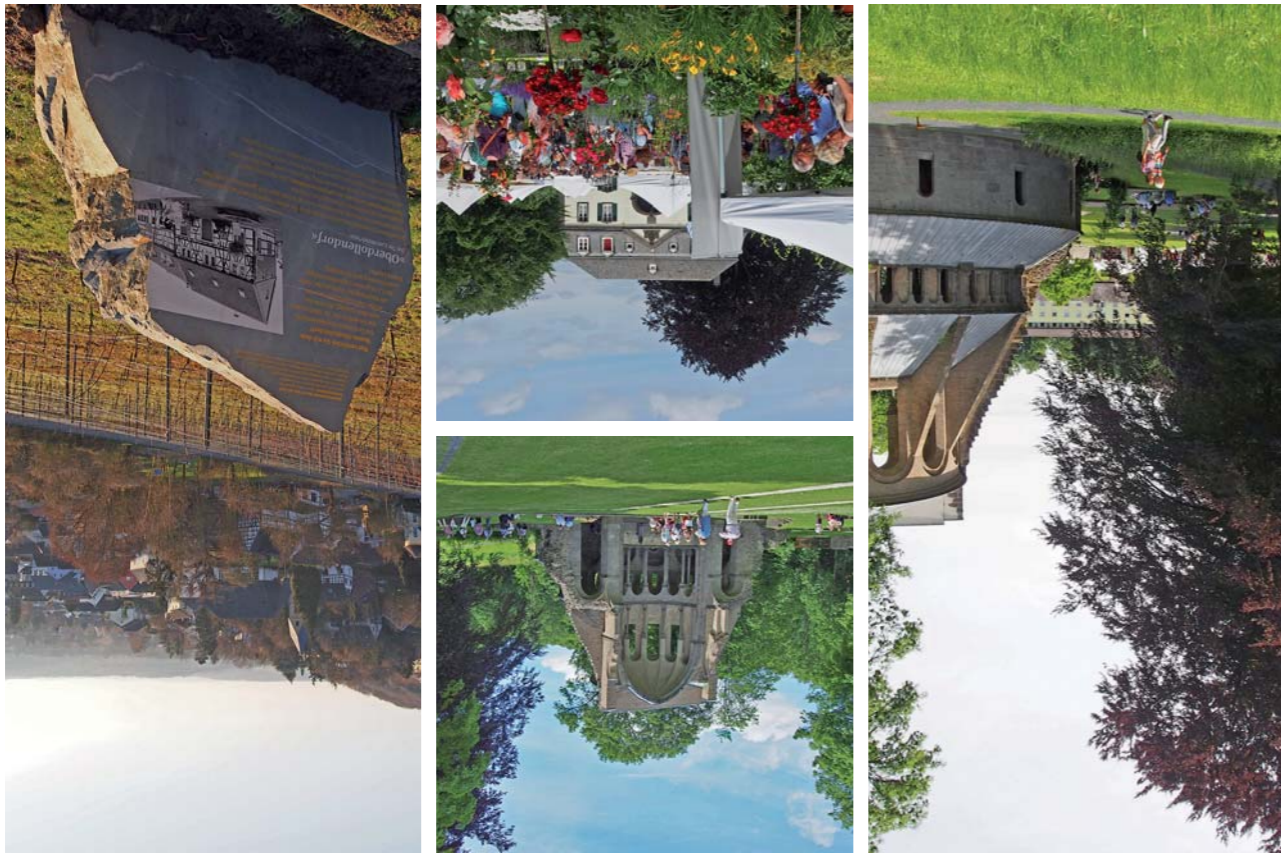


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The projects that were part of Regionale 2010 have creatively upgraded the monastery and cultural landscape of Heisterbach and made accessible the various time layers of monastic life and work as well as the spatial arrangement following secularisation. A re-tracing of the floor plan illustrates the scale of the former abbey. The newly created ensemble of landscaped gardens, ponds and trails lends itself to walking and exploring. The Heisterbach monastery landscape invites visitors on a discovery tour through history. The monastery grounds are readily accessible during the day.

When the monks celebrated the consecration of their monastery church in 1237, the size of the building surpassed that of all Romanesque churches in Cologne with the exception of the cathedral. Of the 88 meters long church, only the ruins of the choir can still be seen today. The monastic life in Heisterbach is long gone. Nevertheless, the aura of this special place is discernible today.



The Heisterbach Monastery Landscape: 800 Years of Living History

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ZEIT ZUM DURCHATMEN: DAS SIEBENGEIRGE
 NATURPARKS, RHEIN UND DRACHENFELS

Königswinter am Rhein & Drachenfels seven attractions — one excursion

Advice and information on the main sights in the heisterbach
 monastery landscape and the drachenfels

Königswinter · Bad Honnef · Rheinbreitbach · Unkel · Erpel · Bruchhausen



The goal of the project was to develop plans for the future-oriented development of the areas that would meet the demands of urban and city planning and development, landscape and nature protection as well as the cultural and historical significance of the locations. The projects are intended to contribute to making Königswinter and the Drachenfels once again into high quality tourism and local recreation destinations that represent the reconciliation of nature protection and tourism use as part of the development of the cultural landscape.

In addition to the Heisterbach Monastery Landscape there was another significant Regionale 2010 project: As a core urban development project of the city of Königswinter and the Rhine-Sieg district within the Regionale 2010, "The comprehensive perspective Königswinter-Drachenfels", dealt with a development corridor from the banks of the Rhine in Königswinter's old town to the lower station of the Drachenfels Railway, past the mid-station and the Drachenburg Castle up to the summit of the Drachenfels with its castle ruins and adjoining landscapes.

Connection between the Drachenfels and the Heisterbach Monastery Landscape:

The Regionale 2010 was a structural development program of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in the region of Cologne/Bonn. The thematic spectrum of the projects ranged from urban and cultural landscape development to tourism promotion to mobility and trainee projects. The exploitation of the rich cultural heritage of the region was also a focus of the Regionale 2010.



Regionale 2010: Networked, Project-oriented, Sustainable



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Drachenfels | Siebengebirge



The Drachenfels, arguably the most famous mountain in the region around Cologne and Bonn, has clearly visible castle ruins on its summit and is with the Drachenfelsplateau one of the most visited local recreation destinations in the Rhineland. Both hikers who seek the summit via the familiar Nachtigallental or on the Eselsweg as well as visitors who ride up on the Drachenfels Railway love the view far down the Rhine valley and are happy to stop for a bite to eat in the re-designed restaurant on the Drachenfels.

And Königswinter's old town, bestowed with many historic buildings and cultural treasures as well as landing stages that offer river cruises on the Rhine, perfectly rounds out an excursion into the Siebengebirge nature preserve.

If you would like to stay overnight, you will find in the Siebengebirge well appointed hotels, guesthouses and holiday flats that leave nothing to be desired. The Maritim Hotel Königswinter, Drachenfelshotel and Hotel Loreley offer sophisticated Rhenish flair. And if you want to aim high, you should not pass up an overnight stay in the Grand Hotel Petersberg.

Plateau | Ruins

There has been a restaurant on the mountain since 1834, and after various renovations and expansions that culminated in an excessively large restaurant building in the 1970s, there was a redesigning of the restaurant and observation deck that was completed in spring 2013.

The plateau shines today with a new splendour, and the panoramic terrace with its seating offers an unobstructed and sweeping view as far as Unkel and to the Rolandsbogen on the opposite slope of the Rhine. And should the weather not cooperate, visitors can enjoy the view from the glass cube and let the Rhine landscape leave its impression on them.

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Drachenburg Castle

The castle ensemble, built in 1882-1884, is the most recent of the fortresses and castles in the Middle Rhine region. After an extensive restoration visitors can experience the lifestyle of the late 19th century in the refurbished rooms.

The spacious landscape park invites visitors to linger and go for a walk. The castle's history comes to life in the exhibitions on the castle's eventful past and in the restoration work. A visit to the museum on the history of nature protection in the castle gatehouse rounds out the visit.

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Nibelungenhalle | Reptile Zoo

Whoever walks down from the Drachenfels into the valley - the saga of Siegfried and the dragon still fresh in one's ear and further inspired by the romantic forest path beneath the dark trees - may perhaps contemplate what might once have dwelt in these woods.

In this "dragon mood", you can look forward to the Nibelungenhalle with its 40 metre long dragon cave, at the end of which a 13 metre high stone dragon waits.

The descendants of this dinosaur can be seen next door in the reptile zoo, which is one of the largest private zoos of its kind in Germany with around 100 living animals. If you would prefer to encounter the legend through art history, you can turn to the Nibelungenhalle, which retells Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelungen" with large format wall paintings in the domed structure completed in 1913.

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Drachenfels Railway

Located right at the base of the Drachenfels is the lower station of Germany's oldest cog railway: the Drachenfels Railway.

While in the first years of the railway steam locomotives still climbed to the summit, today modern rail cars negotiate an elevation difference of 220 m with a 22 % incline on the 1.5 km route. The connection between Königswinter's old town and the ruins on the Drachenfels thus becomes a railway experience.

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SEA-LIFE Königswinter

In Sea Life Königswinter visitors can admire cat sharks, smooth dogfish sharks, moray eels, rays, seahorses and much more.

A special highlight is the 360-degree Plexiglas tunnel - the only one in Germany - through which visitors negotiate the Atlantic tank. Sharks and skates can be experienced close up and face-to-face. You can "dive" into the underwater world of over 2,000 animals of more than 120 species in 36 fascinating displays.

With its layout and design, Sea Life Königswinter thereby picks up on the world of legends and fairy tales. Informational signs, films on ocean sea dwellers and lectures by guides will round out your visit as an instructive outing into the native underwater world.

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Siebengebirgsmuseum

The Siebengebirgsmuseum has featured a new look since September 2012: an expanded and newly designed permanent exhibition with the focus on "Rhine Romanticism" and sections on land use, historical landscapes and Rhine tourism are open to the Siebengebirge's interested public and visitors.

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Old Town | Rheinallee

Königswinter's old town, located directly on the Rhine, extends upward to the Drachenfels summit and has numerous places of interest and stories to offer that can best be discovered on a walk through the town's back streets. For this purpose, we have developed a walking tour that makes interesting facets of the historic city on the Rhine come alive.

