The Regional 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 Regional 2010.

Connection between the Drachenfels and the Heisterbach Monastery 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 königs-winter 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.

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.

The Heisterbach Monastery Landscape:

800 Years of Living History

Regionale 2010:

Networked, Project-oriented, Sustainable

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 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.
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 Rhine region. Both hikers who seek the summit via the familiar Nachtigallental or on the Ehesweg 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 Konigswinter, Drachenfels hotel and Hotel Loreley offer sophisticated Rhineland 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 extensively large restaurant building in the 1970s, there was a redesign of the restaurant and deck that was completed in spring 2016. The plateau shows today with a new splendor, and the panorama terrace with its seating area and sweeping view is an open and free seat to the Nibelungshalle on the opposite slope of the hillock. And should the weather not allow for a view from the glass cube and the Rhine landscape lens on the panorama terrace, you can take a seat on the terrace’s own deck that was completed in spring 2013.

Drachenfels Railway

Located right at the base of the Drachenfels is the inner 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 Drachenfels Railway station is a leisurely experience.

Drachenfels | Siebengebirge

The castle ensemble, built in 1882-1884, is the most recent of the fortresses and castles in the Middle Rhine region. After an extensive renovation project visitors can experience the lifestyle of the late 19th century in the restored rooms. The spacious landscape park invites visitors to take a stroll and wander and, in the combination with art, offers a unique insight into the history of nature protection in the castle garden’s history.

Nebelungenhalle | Reptile Zoo

Wherever walks down from the Drachenfels into the valley - the saga of Siegfried and the dragon still beats in one’s ear and offers the romantic back drop of the dark Rhine - you may perhaps contemplate what might once have dwelt in these woods.

The “dragon mood”, you can look forward to the Nibelungshalle, which invites you to turn to the Nibelungenhalle, which retells Wagner’s “Ring of the Nibelung” with large format wall paintings in the domed structure completed in 1913.

SEA·LIFE Königswinter

SEA·LIFE Königswinter, one of the largest public zoos of its kind in Germany with around 100 living animals. If you would prefer to encounter ocean sea dwellers and lectures by guides will round out your visit as an instructive outing into the native underwater world.

Drachenfels Castle

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

Old Town | Rheinallee

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, Drachenfels hotel and Hotel Loreley offer sophisticated Rhineland flair. And if you want to aim high, you should not pass up an overnight stay in the Grand Hotel Petersberg.