



ISERGEBIGRS-MUSEUM

Isergebirgs-Museum Neugablonz

Bürgerplatz 1 (Gablonzer Haus), Kaufbeuren-Neugablonz
 Telephone +49 8341 965018
 www.isergebirgs-museum.de

Open daily (except Mondays) from 14.00 to 17.00
 Advance booking required for groups.



In the Isergebirgs-Museum the history of Neugablonz comes alive.

The recreation of a railway waggon used in the deportation of ethnic Germans, and the living quarters of a refugee family convey an impression of the harsh conditions of the time. Jewellery exhibits - from the potato-dough brooch to the extravagant buckle created for Marlene Dietrich - illustrate the industry's extraordinary development from these primitive beginnings.

On their way around the museum, visitors encounter a number of famous names: Glass designer Claus Josef Riedel explains why Chianti just doesn't taste right when served in a burgundy glass. A 1954 VW Beetle evokes nostalgic motoring memories. Its constructor, Ferdinand Porsche, is another prominent figure born in the Jizera Mountains. Author Otfried Preußler reveals how "The Robber Hotzenplotz" got his name. He also talks of war, internment, expulsion and a new start.

Left: Music and theater in the Isergebirge
 Right: Permanent exhibition in the Isergebirgs-Museum



HOUSE OF THE GABLONZ INDUSTRIES

Gablonz Industries' interactive exhibition

Neue Zeile 11, Kaufbeuren-Neugablonz
 Telephone +49 8341 98903
 www.erlebnisausstellung.info

Open: Mon-Fry from 9.30 to 12.00, Mon-Tue from 14.00 to 17.00
 Advance booking required for groups.



A world of glitter and sparkle awaits the visitor to the Gablonz Industries' exhibition. Against the backdrop of a starry sky twinkling with dazzling crystals, showcases display elegant pieces of jewellery created by the companies of the Gablonz Industries. The exhibition primarily showcases an assortment of fashion jewellery of various styles. On entering the building, the first thing visitors come across is an almost 10-metre-high curtain, the "Perlurium", made of 4,000 glass beads. The interactive exhibition presents a broad cross-section of products, largely made by hand in the Gablonz companies, and provides an insight into the complex manufacturing processes involved. A variety of articles may be purchased in the shop.

The interactive exhibition takes visitors on a journey of discovery during which they are explicitly encouraged to touch a variety of exhibits. Guests delight in testing their strength on a huge bar of gold or trying their hand at engraving. Come and discover the sparkling world of jewellery!

Gablonz Industries' interactive exhibition



JEWELLERY MANUFACTURING

Watch jewellery being made

The Gablonz Industry is a classic industry cluster distinguished by a high level of flexibility and a vast assortment of products ranging from exclusive fashion jewellery and attractive jewellery components to high-quality precision parts and complete assemblies. As the Gablonz Industries have traditionally supplied to trade customers only and chiefly on a made-to-order basis, there are only few opportunities for private customers to purchase products "made in Neugablonz".

Several businesses have their own salesrooms where shoppers can buy products straight from the factory. For details, please go to www.gablonzer-industrie.de/einkaufen.

Pearl winder at work



Some companies offer visitors the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes look at the jewellery manufacturing process. Tours are only available for groups and must be arranged in advance. Our staff at the Tourist Information will be pleased to help with planning and organising your tour.

Please note that opening times may be subject to change due to business requirements. We recommend arranging your visit in advance to avoid disappointment. Advance notice is always required for group visits.

THE HISTORY OF NEUGABLONZ

Founded on the ruins of a former munitions plant

From the end of 1939, a vast factory complex for the production of munitions was erected in the Hartwald, a wooded area to the north-east of Kaufbeuren. The plant was built on the orders of the Reich government and consisted of approximately 200 well-camouflaged buildings, a number of them bomb-proof. From 1942/43 as many as 1,500 people - more than half of them foreign forced labourers - worked there, producing gunpowder and ammunition. The foreign workers were housed in the Riederloh I camp, situated in today's Sudetenstraße.

The last surviving drying bunker with grass-covered flat roof



In 1944, some 1,000 Jewish concentration camp prisoners were forced to work on construction sites. They were housed in a separate camp, (Riederloh II), a satellite of Dachau concentration camp, erected at Steinholz (near Kaufbeuren). According to official documents, 472 Jews died within a period of four months as a result of malnutrition, various diseases and inhumane treatment at the hands of their guards. A memorial at the site of the mass grave near Steinholz serves as a reminder of this dark chapter of Kaufbeuren's history. The Riederloh II camp was liquidated on 8 January, 1945.

In autumn 1945, the Americans blew up approximately half of the buildings. It was upon the resulting ruins that expellees from the area of Gablonz an der Neisse built their homes and businesses, forming a new urban district of Kaufbeuren. Even today, the structure of Neugablonz is influenced by the topology of the former armaments factory.

GUIDED TOURS FOR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS AND GROUPS

Tours for individuals

German-speaking tour, a translation is not guaranteed.

No reservation required.
 Advanced reservation required for small groups (5 - 10 people).
 Tours are subject to charge.

Guided walks through Neugablonz (May to October)

2nd Saturday of the month at 14.00. Duration approx. 2 hours
 Meeting point: Gablonzer Haus, Bürgerplatz 1

Bunker tour (May to October)

Only the exterior of the monument can be visited.
 3rd Saturday of the month at 14.00. Duration approx. 2 hours
 Meeting point: Gablonzer Haus, Bürgerplatz 1

Guided cycling tour of Neugablonz (May to October)

The tour focuses on the Isergebirgs-Museum in Gablonz House, the interactive exhibition in Haus der Gablonzer Industrie and the ruins of the munitions factory. Appointments by request.

All tours for individuals are also available for groups.

For details of tours and further information go to www.kaufbeuren-tourismus.de

Bicycle tour through Neugablonz



Kaufbeuren's Old Town

Kaufbeuren's Old Town with its historical buildings and churches is a visitor's dream. In the winding cobbled streets of the Old Town, history abounds at every turn. One of Kaufbeuren's most remarkable features are the well-preserved town walls, dating from ca. 1200, with their picturesque towers. One of these, the "Fünfknopfturm", is the emblem of the town. However, history and culture are not the only things Kaufbeuren has to offer. Take a stroll around the Old Town, browse through the shops and enjoy a relaxing break at one of the many street cafés or restaurants.

Historic Old Town



For our comprehensive "Discover Kaufbeuren" information pack, such as "Places to visit around Kaufbeuren", "Walking tours of Kaufbeuren's Old Town and Museums" and some more, please contact us at:

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 Kaiser-Max-Str. 3a
 D-87600 Kaufbeuren / Allgäu
 +49 8341 437-190
 tourist-info@kaufbeuren.de

1 Isergebirgs-Museum

The "Gablonzer Haus", built in 1975/76, is a popular venue for a wide range of cultural events. Since 2003 it has been home to the Isergebirgs-Museum and the Neugablonz public library.

2 Isergebirgsbrunnen (Fountain)

The fountain, erected at Neuer Markt in 1986, is crafted in Sudetenland granite and represents the Jizera Mountain rivers Neisse, Iser, Desse and Kamnitz.

3 Christuskirche (Lutheran Church of Christ)

Designed by Augsburg architect Heinz Schenk and built in 1955. A prominent feature of the interior is the Jerusalem chandelier created by Gerhard Glüder and Thea Postel out of materials used by the Gablonz Industries. Open Tue-Sun, 9.00-17.00.



4 Neugablonz Monument

Designed by Willi Ernst, the monument was erected in 1977. The three arches symbolise the victims of war, expulsion and persecution.

5 Christi Himmelfahrt Kirche (Old Catholic Church of the Ascension)

Built in 1953, designed by Neugablonz architect Eduard Pietsch. Jurassic marble pietà by Otto Kobel. Open Tue-Sun, from 8.00 to 19.00.

6 Rüdigerbrunnen (Fountain)

Until 1945, Franz Metzner's statue of Rüdiger von Bechelaren, a character from the Nibelungen saga, stood in Gablonz an der Neisse. In 1968, it was purchased and transported to its new home, where it became the symbol of Neugablonz. The base of the fountain depicts scenes from the Nibelungen saga.

7 Herz-Jesu-Kirche (Sacred Heart Catholic Church)

The most striking exterior feature of the church, designed by Thomas Wechs and built in the nineteen fifties, are the simple yet harmonious proportions of the nave and 58-metre-tall steeple. Inside, the visitor's eye is drawn to Andreas Bindl's crucifix above the high altar. The adjacent modern chapel is well worth a visit. Open daily from 8.00 to 19.00.

8 Porsche Memorial

Ferdinand Porsche, pioneer of automotive technology and constructor of the legendary VW "Beetle", was born in Maffersdorf near Gablonz. The bust, donated by Porsche, Stuttgart, is a copy of the original bronze at the VW works in Wolfsburg.

9 Vertriebenenendenkmal (Refugee Memorial)

Created by Hanne Wondrak in 1963, the monument serves as a reminder of the fate of those expelled from their homes after World War II.

10 Interactive exhibition in Haus der Gablonzer Industrie

The former fire station of the ammunitions plant now houses the interactive exhibition and the headquarters of the Association of Gablonz Industries.

11 Staatl. Berufsfachschule für Glas und Schmuck (Technical College of Glass and Jewellery)

The college, founded in 1957, specialises in the training of young, creative students in the art of gold and silversmithing, glass and porcelain painting and engraving, and has an excellent international reputation. Many of its former students have been awarded the Bavarian State Prize for Young Designers. For further information please go to www.berufsfachschule-neugablonz.de

1-10 The Jewellery Route

features ten information boards illustrating the various stages of jewellery manufacturing. The route is structured according to the individual professions and covers the history, production processes and future prospects of the Gablonz Industries. The Jewellery Route extends approximately one kilometre through the centre of Neugablonz and connects the Isergebirgs-Museum and the exhibition at the 'Haus der Gablonzer Industrie'. Free parking is available at both locations.

Guidance map and theme panel



1 Memorial in remembrance of the former Riederloh (I) camp

Near the retirement home at sudetenstraße

2 Hauptwache (Main Guardhouse) (Sudetenstraße Nr. 70)

South entrance gate to the factory premises

3 Fire Station (Neue Zeile 11)

4 Bunker for drying gunpowder (Glasschleiferstraße 11 und 14)

An extremely dangerous step in the production process. Last remaining grass-covered bunker

5 Concrete Road (left to the glasschleiferstrasse 12)

One of the last fragments of the old concrete road

6 Chemicals Depot (Silberstraße 4)

There were numerous production facilities in this vicinity

7 Warehouses (Lange Straße 14 and 20)

For storing nitrocellulose, a major component of gunpowder

8 Ruin site: Factory Power Station (Gewerbestraße)

Coal Bunker with overhead crane

Water treatment plant

Provided soft water for steam boilers

Turbine house

Housed the steam turbine used for generating power

Switch Room

The control centre of the power station

9 Canteen (Josefsthaller Straße 3)

Staff common room

10 Stanchion for district heating system (Gewerbestraße 28)

The factory buildings were heated by means of a district heating network. Hot steam flowed through a pipeline mounted on four-metre-high concrete stanchions.

NEUGABLONZ - A UNIQUE HISTORY

Founded on ruins

In the aftermath of World War II, thousands of ethnic Germans expelled from the Gablonz district of northern Bohemia (today's Jablonec nad Nisou, Czech Republic) arrived in Kaufbeuren. Here they were allocated an area on the northern edge of the town where they could rebuild their homes and lives on the ruins of a wartime munitions factory. In 1952, the new settlement became a municipal district of Kaufbeuren and was given the name of "Kaufbeuren-Neugablonz".

Jablonec was world famous for its glass and jewellery, and the newcomers immediately set about rebuilding their industries in ramshackle wooden huts and abandoned concrete bunkers. It was not long before Neugablonz became Germany's leading fashion jewellery centre. Although in the meantime the focus has shifted to the production of precision parts and complete assemblies, Neugablonz is still an important centre for the manufacturing of high-quality fashion jewellery in traditional hand-craftsmanship.

Neugablonz is the largest settlement in Germany founded by a homogenous group from the former eastern territories and has a unique history. Today it has a population of 14,000 and is the centre of the Gablonz Industries. In the Isergebirgs-Museum and the Gablonz Industries' exhibition, visitors can find out all about the remarkable history of the people of Jablonec and their traditional craftsmanship. The Technical College of Glass and Jewellery attracts numerous young people to Neugablonz for specialist training. Since 2009, there has been a close partnership between Kaufbeuren and Jablonec nad Nisou.

Neugablonz Monument

Refugee Memorial



WALKING TOURS

Walking tour of Neugablonz

- 1 Isergebirgs-Museum
- 2 Isergebirgsbrunnen (Fountain)
- 3 Christuskirche (Lutheran Church of Christ)
- 4 Neugablonz Monument
- 5 Christi-Himmelfahrt-Kirche (Old Catholic Church of the Ascension)
- 6 Rüdigerbrunnen (Fountain)
- 7 Herz-Jesu-Kirche (Sacred Heart Catholic Church)
- 8 Porsche Memorial
- 9 Refugee Memorial
- 10 Haus der Gablonzer Industrie
- 11 Technical College of Glass and Jewellery

Jewellery Route "Weg des Schmucks"

- 1 Industry with history
- 2 Glassmakers
- 3 Glass-bead makers and lampworkers
- 4 Glass Refiners
- 5 Engravers
- 6 Stampers and Needleworkers
- 7 Galvanisers
- 8 Fine Metal Workers
- 9 A tradition of excellence
- 10 Experience - the key to a successful future

Bunker route (external viewing)

- 1 Memorial - Former Riederloh Camp
- 2 Main Guardhouse
- 3 Fire Station
- 4 Bunker for drying gunpowder
- 5 Concrete Road
- 6 Chemicals Depot
- 7 Warehouse
- 8 Ruin site: Power Station and Factory
- 9 Canteen
- 10 Stanchion for district heating system