

There are three more attractions next to the LAVA-DOME that you should not miss:

The Lava-cellars

Our man-made historic lava cellars are unique in the world. A system of underground lava caves stretches underneath the town of Mendig, covering an area of about 3 km². This underworld is 32 metres below ground. When Wingertsberg and Laacher See volcanoes erupted and covered the area with glowing lava and pumice ash respectively, one lava flow extended over most of today's Mendig. Exploiting this precious black building stone underground, the people created a system of galleries and mines. That is how the lava cellars were made. Due to their constant temperature of 6–9°C they were used by 28 breweries to store beer. Today a wild system of cellars is left for you to explore with a guide. And the „Käue“, the miners' changing room, is a special place, too. Get in, get dressed up in plastic coats and hard hats, and down you go! Please check in at the Lava Dome.

The Wingertsberg wall

Visit the sheer drop of the 50-metre high Mount Wingertsberg wall not far from the Lava Dome. What happened here? In springtime about 12.900 years ago, the disastrous eruption of the Laacher See volcano took place. A catastrophe unfolded within a matter of seconds. The inferno lasted for about 10 days. The area around was destroyed by an enormous explosion. Magma, a fluid stone 1.300°C hot, had risen to the upper parts of the earth's crust. There, the glowing magma met ground water.

The quickly expanding water vapour created an enormously disastrous pressure wave and exploded to the surface of the earth. During the eruption the volcano spat out ash, pumice stones, rocks, bombs and gas at an unbelievable speed. The deposits of the Wingertsberg wall allow scientists to explain to us the details of this eruption by comparing it to currently active volcanoes of the world.

The Museumsbay (open-air museum quarry)

Only 450 m from the Lava Dome all those who want to learn more about the long tradition of stone production in Mendig will find a little paradise. At its entrance you find one of the most attractive features, the „Schläch-Express“, an old narrow-gauge railway with one steam and one diesel engine and four cars loaded with basalt stones. A millstone on display shows us that Mendig was the centre of the German millstone trade. You will find an old crane at the back of the field showing how the heavy millstones were lifted and transported. A reconstructed stonemason's shed is on view next to a smithy. A few yards of a Roman-time aqueduct made of tuff stone as well as a variety of stones used for road construction offer a time travel across all periods of stone production.

Opening hours of the Lava-Dome

Daily from 10 am to 5:30 pm, closed on Mondays.
For information and bookings for groups and schools at Lava-Dome and cellar dial
+49 (0) 2652-9399 222 or via e-mail
info@lava-dome.de, www.lava-dome.de

Lava-Dome, Brauerstr. 1, 56743 Mendig

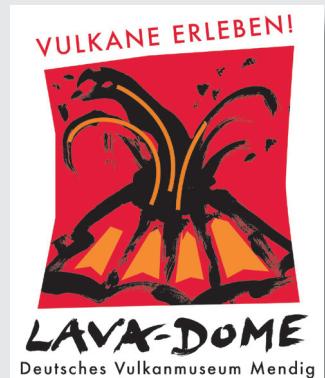
Lava-Dome Mendig Volcano Museum



Volcano – this is a window into a fascinating world

Volcano – this means to experience more: touch, see, hear and smell

A journey into the history of nature. Come to sense the breath of the world's volcanoes without burning your hands.



The LAVA-DOME offers three sections of expositions to the visitors.

The Volcano Workshop

On the top floor visitors acquire hands-on information at a variety of workstations designed to improve their knowledge. People of all ages can discover what they are curious to learn. At ten interactive stations they are able to experiment and reconstruct the impact of the earth's forces that work underneath our planet's surface. We are invited to turn, pull, press, see, read and take in all aspects of volcanoes, in order to absorb the essence of volcanism.

In the land of the volcanoes

A spectacular multimedia animated show offers experience for all five senses. The story of two huge volcanic eruptions is told. When Wingertsberg volcano erupted 200.000 years ago, a mighty lava flow came down its flank – on which today we find the town of Mendig and the Lava Dome museum. Even more devastating was the explosion of the Laacher See volcano about 12.900 years ago. The complete area between the Eifel and the Westerwald mountains was covered with pumice stone and volcanic ash at that time. Visitors to the Lava Dome become witnesses to those eruptions. The volcano spits out fire and smoke, glowing lava flows across the area, you feel the earthquake that precedes the eruption, you see the lava bombs flying around, you feel the blast of the pyroclastic flow on your skin. The multi-media show of the movie theatre takes you on an intense revival of the Eifel volcanoes' true nature.

The „Volcanic Times“ exhibition

Talking stones tell us about historic eruptions of four huge volcanoes: Mount Vesuvius, Mount St. Helens, Mount Pinatubo and Montagne Pelée. Scientific data on eruptions and earthquakes from all parts of the world can be seen on webcams on the internet. You feel like a visitor in a scientific camp where you are shown methods and instruments used today to view and discover the motions of volcanoes about to erupt. In a small round movie theatre we are put through a heart-stopping fictional show that re-enacts a possible second eruption of Laacher See in our own time. Dive into the events and take time afterwards to recover your breath.

Guided tours, Lava-Cellars for daily visitors

Closed on Monday

Tuesday – Friday tour start at 1:30 pm

Saturday, Sunday, Public holidays tours start at 12:00,+1:30,+3:00 pm

During holiday in Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia tours start at 12:00,+1:30,+3:00 pm

The Way to the Lava-Dome

Via motorway A 61 from Cologne take the exit Mendig/Maria Laach on to the B 262. Follow this road to the left towards Mendig. After 300 m there is the exit Mendig to the left. After about 1 km you see the Lava-Dome next to the brewery.

Via motorway A 48 take the exit Mayen and go into the roundabout in 140 m, leaving it for Mayen (B262). After 3.5 km you find the exit towards Mendig on the right. After 8 km turn right towards Niedermendig. After about 1 km you see the Lava-Dome next to the brewery.

Visit the Vulkanpark, meet volcanism

Tremendous eruptions of the volcanoes of the Osteifel region created a unique landscape out of fire and ashes. The Vulkanpark enables you to see the landscape, to witness its evolution and learn about the utilisation of lava and tuff from the Roman period until today. Information on more than 20 volcanological and archaeological projects within the Vulkanpark are available at the Lava-Dome.

