The Mining Cultural Landscape
Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří
A Central European industrial cultural landscape nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage site
The Ore Mountains – a region with a unique mining heritage

The Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří) is a Central European mining region located at the German-Czech border. Emerged from the search for silver and other ores, the mining activities in the Ore Mountains formed the development of the economy, the culture and the landscape of Saxony and Bohemia from the Middle Ages until today. To this day, the interrelation of industry, culture and landscape makes the Ore Mountains unique.

According to the spatial distribution of the raw material deposits and the historic-political development several mining areas geographically and functionally delineable from one and another developed throughout the centuries in the Ore Mountains. The component parts of the Mining Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří are reflecting and representing this development process as well as the specific and unique character of this cultural landscape.

The Mining Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří

The Mining Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří is characterised by three determining attributes which justify its outstanding universal value:

(1) the chronological depth of more than 800 years of mining activities from the Middle Ages until today;

(2) the diversity of mined and processed ores such as silver, lead, tin, copper, iron, cobalt, nickel, zinc and uranium as well as other raw materials such as kaolin, chalk and coal;

(3) the broad spectrum of mining, industrial and cultural monuments such as mining and ore processing sites, mining landscapes, following-up industries, mining settlements and scientific sites as well as their associated cultural values including education, sciences and technology, arts, craft, music and literature, folk art and traditions as well as political, legal and economical developments of national and international importance (7 facets).
World Heritage criteria

The Mining Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (ii) illustrates an important interchange of values on the development of a transboundary mining landscape and a mining society within the time span of more than 800 years;

(iii) is an exceptional illustration in material form of the social, economic and administrative structures of an 800-year old mining civilization;

(iv) represents a valuable source for our present-day knowledge of mining techniques, related settlements, buildings and structures and illustrates the gradual changes of the landscape;

(vi) represents a region which is directly associated with the culture of an old mining territory and which is strongly associated with the system of knowledge representing the ideas and theories of mining and geo-sciences.

The component parts

In total, 85 component parts were selected to fully document all attributes. These component parts are critically important for the understanding of the evolution of the mining cultural landscape, its worldwide significance and the formative influence of the mining activities. Due to the different heritage protection laws, the different density of population as well as the broader geographical distribution of the mining heritage on the Saxon side of the Ore Mountains the number and layout of the component parts differ between Saxony and the Czech Republic.

The component parts themselves are composed of single monuments, groups of buildings, linear structures, urban and mining landscapes. Moreover, the 79 Saxon component parts are assigned to 39 regional elements. Each component part vividly illustrates a part of the history and the development of this mining cultural landscape. Taken together, the component parts are reflecting a large and from the beginning on decentral organised mining landscape.
Component parts of the Mining Cultural Landscape "Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří" in Czech Republic and Germany:

**GERMANY – ELEMENTS (NUMBER OF COMPONENT PARTS):**
1. Altenberg–Zinnwald Mining Landscape (7)
2. Glashütte Watch-making Industry Monuments (1)
3. Dippoldiswalde Medieval Silver Mines (1)
4. Brand-Erbisdorf Mining Landscape (3)
5. Historic Centre of Freiberg (2)
6. Himmelfahrt Fundgrube Mining Landscape (7)
7. Zug Mining Landscape (1)
8. Muldenhütten Metallurgical Complex (1)
9. Freiberg Northern Mining District with Ore Canal (4)
10. Gersdorf Mining Landscape and AltzeIa Monastery (2)
11. Freiberg Mining Water Management System (2)
12. Augustusburg Hunting Lodge (1)
13. Lengefeld Lime Works (1)
14. Historic Centre of Marienberg (2)
15. Mining Landscape Lauta (1)
16. Grüner Graben Pobershau (water ditch) (1)
17. Grünthal Ligation Hut Complex (1)
18. Monuments of the Wooden Craftart in Seiffen (2)
19. Ehrenfriedersdorf Mining Landscape (2)
20. Niederzwönitz Paper Mill (1)
21. Historic Centre of Schneeberg (1)
22. Frohnau Mining Landscape (3)
23. Buchholz Mining Landscape (3)
24. Pöhlberg Mining Landscape (2)
25. Scheibenberg Geotopes (1)
26. Schmalzgrube Ironworks (1)
27. Historic Mining Monuments in Aue (3)
28. Schneeberger Floßgraben (timber transport ditch) (1)

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4. Brand-Erbisdorf Mining Landscape (3)
5. Historic Centre of Freiberg (2)
6. Himmelfahrt Fundgrube Mining Landscape (7)
7. Zug Mining Landscape (1)
8. Muldenhütten Metallurgical Complex (1)
9. Freiberg Northern Mining District with Ore Canal (4)
10. Gersdorf Mining Landscape and AltzeIa Monastery (2)
11. Freiberg Mining Water Management System (2)
12. Augustusburg Hunting Lodge (1)
13. Lengefeld Lime Works (1)
14. Historic Centre of Marienberg (2)
15. Mining Landscape Lauta (1)
16. Grüner Graben Pobershau (water ditch) (1)
17. Grünthal Ligation Hut Complex (1)
18. Monuments of the Wooden Craftart in Seiffen (2)
19. Ehrenfriedersdorf Mining Landscape (2)
20. Niederzwönitz Paper Mill (1)
21. Historic Centre of Schneeberg (1)
22. Frohnau Mining Landscape (3)
23. Buchholz Mining Landscape (3)
24. Pöhlberg Mining Landscape (2)
25. Scheibenberg Geotopes (1)
26. Schmalzgrube Ironworks (1)
27. Historic Mining Monuments in Aue (3)
28. Schneeberger Floßgraben (timber transport ditch) (1)

**CZECH REPUBLIC – COMPONENT PARTS:**
1. Jáchymov Mining Cultural Landscape
2. Abertamy–Boží Dar–Horní Blatná Mining Cultural Landscape
3. The Red Tower of Death (Rudá věž smrti)
4. Lime Works in Háj near Loučná pod Klinovcem
5. Mežník Hill Mining Landscape
6. Krupka Mining Cultural Landscape

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3. Dippoldiswalde Medieval Silver Mines (1)
4. Brand-Erbisdorf Mining Landscape (3)
5. Historic Centre of Freiberg (2)
6. Himmelfahrt Fundgrube Mining Landscape (7)
7. Zug Mining Landscape (1)
8. Muldenhütten Metallurgical Complex (1)
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The Ore Mountains – a continuing cultural landscape

Another very important feature of the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge/Krušnohorský) is the fact that it is not a relict landscape but a continuing landscape in which economic, urban and infrastructural projects will be realised today and in future. In particular, new exploration activities and the first newly opened mines are part of this development.

As one of the most densely populated Central European mountain ranges, the Ore Mountains developed especially on the basis of its long-lasting mining history. One key issue is to harmonise current and future requirements of this living and developing industrial landscape with the preservation of the valuable historic witnesses and landscapes.

Protection and management

The preservation of authenticity and integrity of the Mining Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohorský is based on national statutory provisions and international agreements. On the national level all component parts are protected by various legal regulations. Moreover, the Free State of Saxony and the Czech Republic have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in which they declare their common will to protect the nominated serial property in accordance with the requirements set up in the World Heritage Convention.

On the basis of already established working structures a future management system was developed which involves all stakeholders on the national as well as the international level. A common management plan defines basic objectives and forms a framework to realise the preservation, conservation, use and further development as well as the long-term management of the nominated serial property from the very beginning on.
Method of the selection of the component parts

A basic foundation for the realisation of the project was provided by the participatory approach that was developed by the World Heritage project group of the IWTG.

The procedure enabled to involve all relevant stakeholders such as associations and interested citizens, owners, municipalities, building and planning authorities, monument preservation authorities as well as external experts in the nomination process.

Main aim was the selection, the justification, the documentation and the identification of the boundaries of the component parts representing the Mining Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří.

Moreover, the aim was to develop a broad basis for the project within the region and to ensure the compatibility of the protection and conservation of the mining cultural landscape with further economic and infrastructural developments. By this way, potential conflicts were identified in the forefront of the nomination and solved in a common discussion and decision process.

This procedure enabled to involve all concerned stakeholders and at the same time enhanced the awareness for the protection and conservation of the important witnesses.
800 years of mining | 85 component parts
39 elements | 7 facets

www.montanregion-erzgebirge.de

Contact

Welterbekonvent Erzgebirge c/o
Wirtschaftsförderung Erzgebirge GmbH
Adam-Ries-Straße 16
09456 Annaberg-Buchholz
phone +49 3733 1450
fax +49 3733 145145
kontakt@wfe-erzgebirge.de
www.wfe-erzgebirge.de

TU Bergakademie Freiberg
World Heritage Project Group IWTG
Silbermannstraße 2
09599 Freiberg
phone +49 3731 392826
fax +49 3731 392832
helmuth.albrecht@iwtg.tu-freiberg.de
http://tu-freiberg.de/fakult6/technikgeschichte-und-industriearchaeologie

Montanregion Krušné hory – Erzgebirge, o.p.s.
Farní 2
362 35 Abertamy (CZ)
phone +420 353 892333
starostaab@seznam.cz
www.montanregion.cz

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Text: Prof. Dr. Helmuth Albrecht
Friederike Hansell M.A. (IWTG)

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