



# The Spoil Heap Mountain Range

## The Height of Leisure and Recreation in the Ruhr Metropolis

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## **The spoil heap mountain range**

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Once a by-product of the region's coal mining industry, today they are an integral part of the verdant landscape of the Ruhr Metropolis – the spoil heaps. More than 100 of these mountains have been formed out of excavated material from former coal mines, transforming the original flat countryside into an exciting landscape with numerous elevations. Many of the man-made mountains serve as “scenic viewpoints” on the Industrial Heritage Route, setting striking accents and providing visitors with the opportunity to appreciate the scale of the Ruhr Metropolis from above.

Each spoil heap has its own unique charm. Some are crowned with landmark artistic installations, tangible symbols of the region's stunning transformation. Others provide the perfect setting for leisure activities such as hiking and mountain biking, and almost all of the summits offer incredible panoramic views. Enjoy nature. Breathe deeply. Come to peace. Last but not least, the spoil heap mountain range is a recreational destination.

As the mountain range's owner, the Ruhr Regional Association (RVR), is responsible for the upkeep and development of around 50 of these spoil heaps. More will follow. This flyer presents a selection of the most attractive heaps for visitors, sports enthusiasts and holiday-makers. With a few exceptions, almost all of the spoil heaps showcased here are owned by RVR. Detailed information and a list of every spoil heap in the Ruhr Metropolis can be found at [www.halden.rvr.ruhr](http://www.halden.rvr.ruhr).



"Hallenhaus" by the artist group Observatorium

## Halde Norddeutschland

The "Hallenhaus", an open, steel-framed structure, was created by the artist group Observatorium and stands as a landmark on the eastern edge of the top of the spoil heap, which can be reached via the 359-step "stairway to heaven". The staircase, the spiralling panorama path and the "Hallenhaus" are all illuminated for atmospheric evening walks.

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Starting point: Geldernsche Straße, 47506 Neukirchen-Vluyn

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Public transport: "Gewerbegebiet Nord" bus stop, roughly 1.7 kilometres from the base of the heap

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Bike: Junction number 47 (Neukirchen-Vluyn)

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Height above sea level: 101 metres

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Height of the heap: 74 metres

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Area: 81 hectares

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## Visiting spoil heaps by bike

**Many spoil heaps are easy to reach by bike. RVR's numbered junction system means cycling around the region couldn't be easier. You can plan your route using [radroutenplaner.ruhr](https://www.radroutenplaner.ruhr) and read more on the Ruhr Region Cycling website [radrevier.ruhr](https://www.radrevier.ruhr) and in our "Experience Industrial Heritage by Bike" leaflet.**

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# Halde Rheinpreußen

On the summit plateau, the artist Otto Piene has set up a monument to the miners with his oversized miner's lamp, "Geleucht", which also serves as a lookout tower and can be ascended at certain times (see below). After dark, a truly unique magic unfolds as spotlights bathe the sculpture and the slope in glowing red light.

Starting point: Gutenbergstraße, 47443 Moers
Public transport: "Waldsee" bus stop
Bike: Junction number 17 (Moers)
Height above sea level: 103 metres
Height of the heap: 74 metres
Area: 49 hectares
The Geleucht viewing platform is open at the following times: April–Oct., Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun, 14:00–18:00, Nov.–Mar., Sat and Sun, 13:00–16:00; Illumination: April–Oct., from dusk to 23:00, Nov.–March to 21:00



## Heinrich-Hildebrand-Höhe

The 18-metre tall, walkable sculpture “Tiger & Turtle – Magic Mountain” was created by the artists Heike Mutter and Ulrich Genth and is reminiscent of a roller coaster, providing impressive views over the Rhine. Incidentally, there is no colliery spoil under this green hill: the remains of the zinc smelter, which closed in 2005, are stored here in a well-secured location.

Starting point: Ehinger Straße, 47249 Duisburg
(Wanheim-Angerhausen)
Public transport: “Tiger & Turtle” bus stop
Bike: Junction number 35 (Duisburg)
Height above sea level: 63 metres
Height of the heap: 31 metres
Area: 6 hectares

## Halde Lohberg Nord

The spoil heap, which was created with spoil from the Lohberg colliery that closed as recently as 2005, is next to the Bergpark Lohberg in the Emscher Landscape Park. The heap offers panoramic views of the Lippe region, the Lower Rhine and the central Ruhr area. The wind turbine symbolises the sustainable generation of electricity.

Starting point: Car park at Bergpark, Grünes Tor,
46539 Dinslaken-Lohberg
Public transport: “Steigerstraße” bus stop
Bike: From junction number 79 (Dinslaken), a good 2 kilometres to the north, towards junction number 80
Height above sea level: 111 metres
Height of the heap: 85 metres
Area: 73 hectares

## Halde Haniel

This is one of the highest colliery spoil heaps in the Ruhr Metropolis and offers impressive views across the entire region. The gentlest ascent to the summit is via the Way of the Cross, whose 15 stations were designed by the artist Tisa von der Schulenburg. Her paintings are symbolically accompanied by tools and objects from the mining industry. More than 100 totems tower into the sky, creating an impressive landmark on the heap’s summit. The Basque artist Agustín Ibarrola crafted

the totem poles out of railway sleepers. A little below, in a crater, is the Bergarena. This unique venue offers space for 800 people.

Starting point: Kirchhellener Straße or Birkhahnstraße 29,
46145 Oberhausen-Königshardt or Fernewaldstraße,
46242 Bottrop-Fuhlenbrock
Public transport: “Kleekamp” bus stop, Oberhausen
Bike: Junction number 16 (Bottrop)
Height above sea level: 185 metres
Height of the heap: 120 metres
Area: 114 hectares



**Tetraeder-Halde**

In 1995, the Tetraeder colliery spoil heap on Beckstraße was one of the first to be adorned with a work of art at its summit: As a visible sign of change, Wolfgang Christ’s Tetrahedron is enthroned as a walkable sculpture on the spoil heap’s plateau. The ascent requires some effort, especially as the stairs suspended from steel cables swing slightly. The view, however, is well worth it. As darkness descends, the top of the steel pyramid transforms into a light feature thanks to the “Fractal” installation by the artist Jürgen LIT Fischer.

Starting point: Beckstraße, 46238 Bottrop-Batenbrok
Public transport: “Tetraeder” bus stop
Bike: Junction number 5 (Bottrop)
Height above sea level: 114 metres
Height of the heap: 73 metres
Area: 33 hectares



## Schurenbachhalde

Solitary and monumental, the almost 15-metre, 70-ton “Slab for the Ruhr” was created by the U.S. artist Richard Serra to rise from the barren lunar landscape of the spoil heap summit. A branching network of paths leads walkers to the top. Sports enthusiasts can enjoy nature on the six-kilometre “Brammen Trail” mountain bike circuit.

Starting point: Emscherstraße 212, 45329 Essen-Altenessen
Public transport: “Kirche Heßlerstraße” bus stop
Bike: Junction number 61 (Essen)
Height above sea level: 86 metres
Height of the heap: 49 metres
Area: 48 hectares



## Halde Rungenberg

Rungenberg spoil heap is a table mountain with two peaks. At night, the illusion of a single pyramid is created when spotlights from two light cannons meet in the night sky. The artwork was designed by Hermann EsRichter and Klaus Noculak.

Starting point: Holthausen Straße or Schaffrathstraße, 45897 Gelsenkirchen-Buer
Public transport: “Emil-Zimmermann-Allee” bus stop
Bike: Junction number 64 (Gelsenkirchen)
Height above sea level: 115 metres
Height of the heap: 67 metres
Area: 63 hectares



## Halde Rheinelbe

To reach the summit, follow the trail that spirals to the top of the spoil heap. Rheinelbe heap is crowned by Herman Prigann's landmark "Himmelstreppe" (Stairway to Heaven) sculpture, which in turn can be reached via a steep staircase.

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Starting point: Leithestraße, 45886 Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf

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Public transport: Haltestelle "Halfmannsweg"

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Bike: South of junction number 48 (Gelsenkirchen), towards junction 49

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Height above sea level: 106 metres

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Height of the heap: 53 metres

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Area: 18 hectares

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## Landschaftspark Hoheward

Together, the Hoheward and Hoppenbruch spoil heaps form the Hoheward Landscape Park, which, at around 240 hectares, is one of the largest spoil heap landscapes in Europe. Hoheward is home to a wide range of attractions, including a circular promenade for walking and cycling, a cross-country mountain bike track, a balcony promenade with stunning vistas and a staircase with more than 500 steps to the Hoheward spoil heap, where the majestic arches of the "Horizon Observatory" rise into the sky and provide a hands-on experience of the cosmic dance of the sun and stars, while a little further away, the nine-metre sundial obelisk serves as an XXL timepiece that tracks the days, months and seasons with shadows. These outdoor attractions are complemented by the permanent exhibition on horizon astronomy in the former Ewald Colliery's "Pay and Light Hall". On the neighbouring Hoppenbruch spoil heap, the Herten Freeride Club has created a 4.4-kilometre



track for experienced mountain bikers with climbs of over 100 metres. There is also a wind turbine on the higher of the two peaks. You can find out more at the RVR Hoheward Visitor Centre (Werner-Heisenberg-Straße 14, 45699 Herten). [www.hoheward.rvr.ruhr](http://www.hoheward.rvr.ruhr)

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Visitor Centre opening hours: April–Oct.: Tue–Fri, 10:00–18:00; Sat, Sun & public holidays, 10:00–13:15 & 13:45–18:00 (last admission 17:00) Nov.–March: Tue–Fri, 10:00–17:00, Sat, Sun & public holidays, 10:00–13:15 & 13:45–17:00 (last admission 16:00)

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## Halde Hoheward

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Starting point: P1: Ewaldstraße 261, Lise-Meitner-Straße 2 or Doncaster Platz, 45699 Herten

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P2: Herner Straße 198, 45699 Herten

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P3: Karlstraße 55, 45661 Recklinghausen

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Public transport: “Neue Horizonte”, “Bergwerk Ewald ½” or “Gelsenkirchener Straße” bus stops

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Bike: Between junction number 43 (Ewald Colliery) and 42 (both Herten) or from the Hochlarmark district park (between junctions 41 and 42, Recklinghausen-Süd).

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Height above sea level: 151 metres

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Height of the heap: 111 metres

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Area: 170 hectares

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## Halde Hoppenbruch

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Starting point: Im Emscherbruch or Ewaldstraße, 45699 Herten

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Public transport: “Wanne Waldfriedhof” bus stop

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Bike: South of junction number 43 (Ewald Colliery, Herten)

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Height above sea level: 113 metres

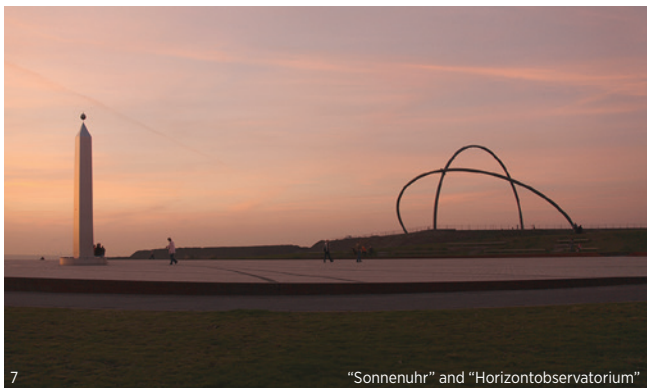
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Height of the heap: 68 metres

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Area: 66 hectares

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## Tip: Heap Guided Tours

The “Pit & Panorama” guided tour combines a visit to the historic Ewald Colliery, a bus trip to Hoheward spoil heap and a visit to the Recklinghausen training mine. Details of other guided tours, including a full moon walk, and more information are available at [www.rvr.ruhr/service/veranstaltungskalender/](http://www.rvr.ruhr/service/veranstaltungskalender/)

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## Halde Schwerin

The sculptor Jan Bormann created an imposing sundial crafted from 24 stainless steel tubs on the spoil heap’s summit. Four staircases are aligned to the cardinal compass points, lead upwards and meeting to form a “geo-cross” in the centre of the summit plateau.

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Starting point: Bodelschwingher Straße, 44577 Castrop-Rauxel

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Public transport: “Overbergstraße” bus stop

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Bike: Junction number 76 (Castrop-Rauxel)

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Height above sea level: 147 metres

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Height of the heap: 24 metres

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Area: 15 hectares

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Light installation “Impuls” by Dirk und Maik Löbbert

## Halde Großes Holz

It is one of the largest in the Ruhr region. The Ardener Höhe is the highest point of the spoil heap and offers an impressive view of the surrounding area. When it gets dark, the “Impuls” light column by artists Dirk and Maik Löbbert shines into the sky with 14,400 LED lights. Otherwise, the dominant colour on the spoil heap is

blue: lighthouses with Plexiglas cladding shimmer blue, as do the blossoms of the perennials and shrubs in the Corridor Park.

Starting point: Erich-Ollenhauer-Straße
or the car park on Waldstraße, 59192 Bergkamen
Public transport: “Erich-Ollenhauer-Straße” bus stop
Bike: Junction number 19 (Bergkamen)
Height above sea level: 148 metres
Height of the heap: 92 metres
Area: 140 hectares

**Kissinger Höhe and Humbert heaps**

Lippepark Hamm extends across the site of two former mines – “Schacht Franz” and “Radbod” – and the spoil heaps to the south. Kissinger Höhe and Humbert heaps combine to form a contiguous range and are adorned by the same spoil heap symbol: a bright orange, spiral-shaped lookout tower. In addition to three green peaks, Kissinger Höhe is a fantastic destination for hiking, jogging and walking, and even has a barefoot path. The neighbouring Humbert heap is reminiscent of a ship or steam iron and is sparsely overgrown.

Starting point: Zum Bergwerk, 59077 Hamm-Herringen
Public transport: Haltestelle “Zeche Heinrich-Robert”
Bike: Junction number 5 (Hamm)
Halde Kissinger Höhe
Height above sea level: 113 metres
Height of the heap: 57 metres
Area: 39 hectares
Halde Humbert
Height above sea level: 98 metres
Height of the heap: 43 metres
Area: 38 hectares

**A panoramic view of the Ruhr Metropolis**

**Lohberg Nord, Haniel and Großes Holz spoil heaps, together with the Tetraeder and Hoheward spoil heap landscapes, are among the region’s highest elevations. Some of the heaps even offer fascinating views of the other heaps: from Haniel heap, for example, you can see Lohberg Nord heap to the northwest and Hoheward heap to the east. The Tetraeder heap also provides stunning views of the surrounding spoil heap mountain range, including Haniel, Scholven, Mottbruch and Hoheward heaps.**

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## Legal notice

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Kissinger Höhe with the “Haldenzeichen” (spoil heap symbol)  
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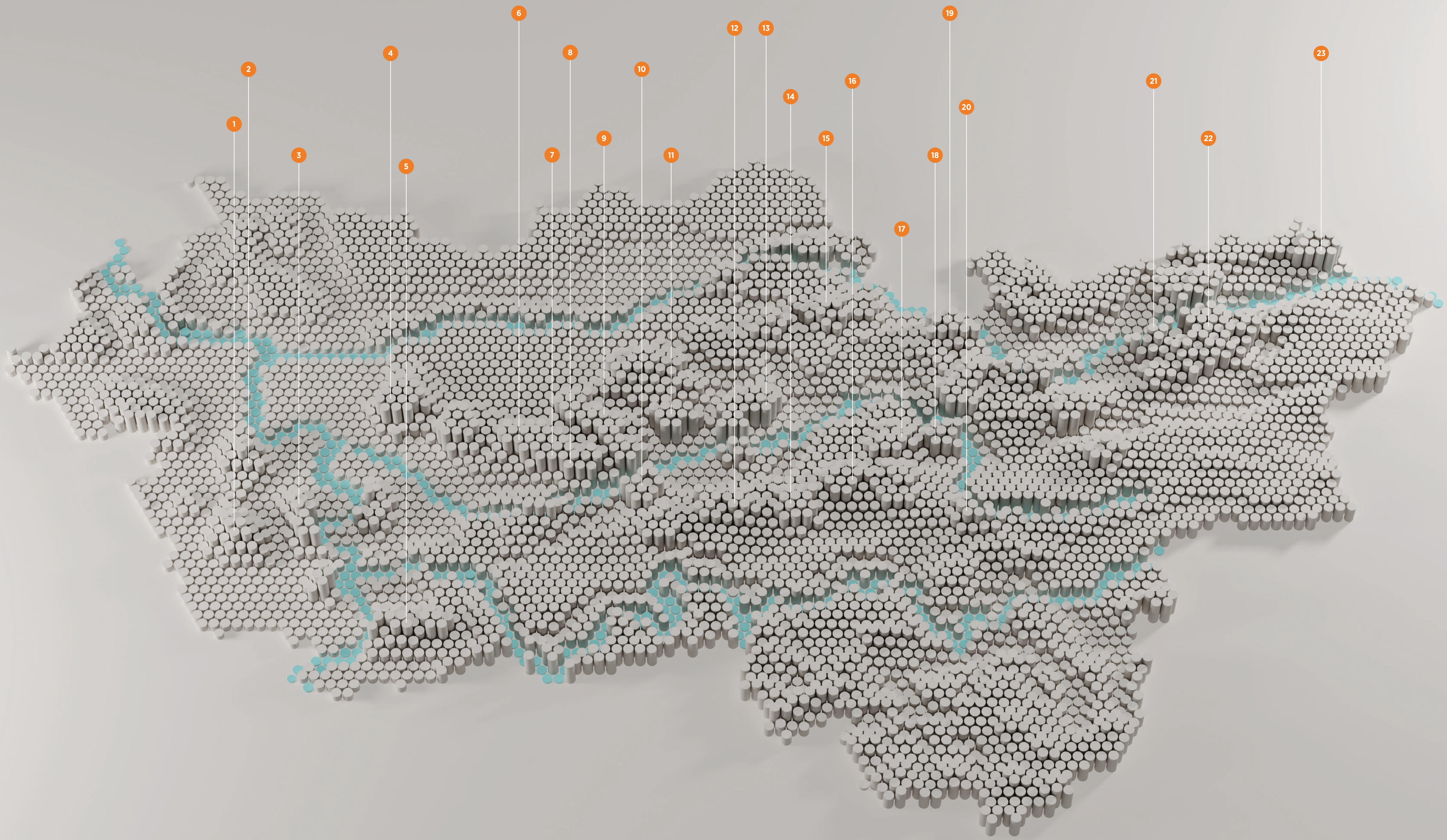
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# The Spoil Heap Mountain Range

# The Height of Leisure and Recreation in the Ruhr Metropolis



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