

MUSEUM, MEDIA AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

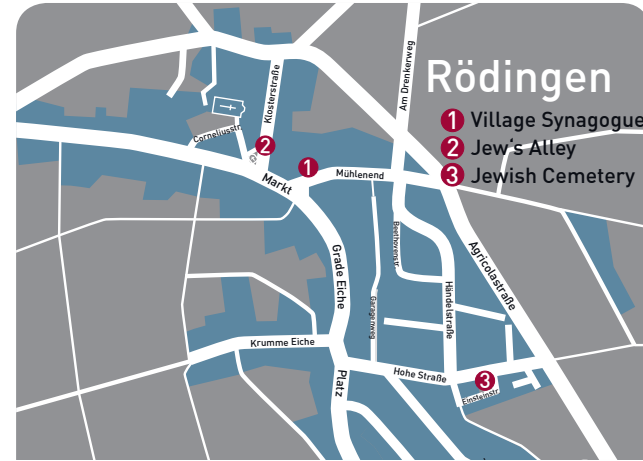
Audio guides are available free of charge in German, English and easy German (for visitors with cognitive disabilities, as well as those with limited German). The media room contains a library, as well as facilities for viewing films on the life of Rhineland Jews, and on religious dietary rules.



Purim workshop:
an Esther scroll is unrolled and explained

The educational programme for children and young people offers games and puzzles, as well as visual media. The most recent development is "Das Quiz", an award-winning educational app, complementing the permanent exhibition and usable on any smartphone, which combines historical photos, audio and quiz items with a tour of the Rödingen synagogue complex. For more details see our "Schüler in die Synagoge" flyer.

HOW TO GET THERE



The former synagogue and synagogue Vorsteher's house are in the village of Rödingen, in the Rhineland district of Titz, between Cologne and Aachen (approx. 10 km from Jülich).

To the south is the artificial hill known as the Sophienhöhe, to the east the opencast lignite mine at Garzweiler.



LVR-CULTURAL CENTRE Rödingen Village Synagogue



Opening times

Sundays 11:00 – 17:00 and by special arrangement

Entrance fees

Adults	3 €
Groups of 10 or more	2,50 €
Disabled, students, trainees	2 €
Children and young people under 19	no fee
Guided tour, 90 min	60 €
plus fee (only by prior arrangement – see: kulturinfo rheinland)	

Information for visitors

Guided tours bookings

kulturinfo rheinland
Tel 02234 9921-555
Fax 02234 9921-300
info@kulturinfo-rheinland.de
www.kulturinfo-rheinland.de

LVR-CULTURAL CENTRE Rödingen Village Synagogue Jewish Life in the Rhineland

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LVR-CULTURAL CENTRE Rödingen Village Synagogue Jewish life in the Rhineland

THE BUILDINGS: VILLAGE SYNAGOGUE AND FAMILY HOUSE

Rödingen, a village between Cologne and Düsseldorf – now part of the district of Düren – was already in the Middle Ages home to a number of Jewish families. In the course of the 19th century they grew into a small rural community. In 1841 Isaak Ullmann, for many years Vorsteher (leader) of the Jewish community, had a synagogue built on his property for the Jewish families in Rödingen and the neighbouring villages.



Block jigsaw from the museum's educational programme:
front view of the synagogue Vorsteher's house

Today the Rödingen synagogue is the only Jewish house of worship in the western Rhineland still largely in its original condition. In 1934, facing financial loss in the wake of National Socialist persecution, the descendants of the Ullmann family were forced to sell their property. The new owner, a Christian fairground showman, used the empty synagogue as a workshop. As it was now in 'Arian' hands, it survived the 1938 November Pogrom.



Ellen Eliel-Wallach, great-granddaughter of the
synagogue's founder, at the opening of the exhibition

In 1999 the Landschaftsverband Rheinland (LVR) bought the entire property, which was then in a very dilapidated state. After the completion of restoration, the complex of buildings was reopened in 2009 as the "LVR-Cultural Centre: Rödingen Village Synagogue". The former synagogue is now used for monthly lectures, readings, concerts, films and workshops, and the Ullmann family house is a museum showing various aspects of Jewish life in the Rhineland.

NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive regular information about events and projects at the LVR-Cultural Centre: Rödingen Village Synagogue?

Just send us an e-mail at landsynagoge@lvr.de and we will put you on our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive information by post, please let us know your postal address.

THE ULLMANNS: FOUNDERS OF THE SYNAGOGUE

From 1789 to 1934 the house in Rödingen was the centre of the Ullmann family's life. Their history, which can be reconstructed for the past 200 years or so, is in many respects typical of Rhineland Jewish history in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is a story of migration and settlement, and of the professions and occupations Jews were allowed to practise. It tells of the long path to legal equality, and of enduring commitment to the concerns of the small rural Jewish community.

By the beginning of the 20th century, only a few elderly people were left in the Rödingen community, among them Sibilla Ullmann, the youngest daughter of the synagogue's founder. The younger people had all left the village. Like other Jews, both in the cities and in rural villages, the Ullmanns suffered ostracism, outlawing, and persecution under the Nazi regime.



Ellen Eliel-Wallach, great-granddaughter of the
synagogue's founder, with her father Richard Wallach

TRACES OF HISTORY

Between 2006 and 2008 the LVR undertook careful restoration of all the Rödingen buildings. Many seemingly insignificant traces of former usage were retained or made visible again. In the synagogue itself, the Torah niche, women's gallery, and remnants of ornamental painting recall the building's former religious use. The aim of the restoration was not to create a replica of the building at any particular phase of its history, but to reveal its whole history from 1841 to the present. Hence traces of its later function as a workshop and storehouse have also been retained.



Sibilla Ullmann, daughter of the synagogue's founder,
left her signature scratched into the glass of this window

Certain features of the house tell of the people who lived there: about their religion, professions, household, and way of life. Particularly impressive are the traces of mezuzot on the doorposts of all the rooms – a sign of the Ullmann's identity as pious Jews.