Who built the first factory in history?
Where can you find the largest steam engine ever built?
What was everyday life like in mines, factories and workers’ dwellings?

You can find the answers at www.erih.net: the European Route of Industrial Heritage.
The industrialisation of Europe changed the face of the Earth. From then on the clock determined the rhythm of life - time is money. Machines replaced the work of blacksmiths and grinders, spinners and weavers. Mass production replaced home-based craft labour. Society was reshaped at the cost of immense sacrifices.

Today Europe is once more undergoing a period of radical transformation. Structural change has put an end to many industrial businesses. Whole regions are looking for a new identity and equipping themselves for the future.

What remains is a rich industrial and cultural legacy in the form of a huge network of sites spread all over Europe. It only has to be brought to life. That is exactly what ERIH - the European Route of Industrial Heritage - is doing.

Anchor Points
The Anchor Points make up the backbone of the route. These are the most important and attractive tourist venues in European industrial history. Here visitors of all ages can experience industrial heritage at first hand. Fascinating guided tours, multimedia presentations and outstanding events inform visitors of amazing technical achievements, child labour, the enthusiasm for progress and the daily struggle to survive.

Regional Routes
The Anchor Points branch out into a number of regional routes which cover areas where industrial history has left its mark. These include less well-known industrial monuments.

European Theme Routes
Special theme routes address questions about major transnational connections. When, where and how were particular natural resources taken from the earth? Which furnace ovens brought iron and steel to melting point? Which inventions and conflicts marked the path from the cotton fields to the textile factories?

ERIH will take you on an exciting journey of discovery – down into coal mines and up to the giddy heights of gigantic blast furnaces, through working-class housing estates and tycoons’ villas, into engine houses and factories. In short, to the milestones of European industrial heritage.

For more information go to ERIH’s website: www.erih.net