



NATURKUNDEMUSEUM
KARLSRUHE

WELCOME TO THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY KARLSRUHE!



DISCOVER EXPLORE CONSERVE

DISCOVER

EXPLORE

CONSERVE

NATURE

THE FASCINATION OF NATURE AND SCIENCE FOR ALL THE FAMILY – THE STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY KARLSRUHE!

Welcome to our museum! With its permanent exhibitions, temporary special exhibitions, vivarium full of exotic animals, and many different events our museum is a place where visitors can discover the diversity and beauty of nature.

The State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe originated with the curiosities and natural history objects collected by the Margravine Karoline Luise (1723–1783). Under the directorship of Carl Christian Gmelin (1762–1837) the public was first admitted to visit the cabinet of natural history over 200 years ago in 1785.

Margravine Karoline Luise von Baden



Carl Christian Gmelin





Just some of the millions of beetles in the entomological collection

Today's museum at Friedrichsplatz was built between 1866 and 1872 especially to house the cabinet of natural history and the court library. Many valuable items were lost when the building was destroyed by bombs in 1942. The rebuilding process was completed in 1972.

The west wing had been used for many years to store books for the State archives and the Baden State Library. Alteration work on the wing was completed in 2016 and it now offers space for large-scale temporary exhibitions as well as the museum's new permanent exhibition entitled "Form and function – Inspired by nature".

Today our museum provides around 5,000 m² of exhibition space with up to date exhibits on all aspects of natural history. Regional and exotic wild-life in realistic dioramas convey something of the sheer diversity of life to visitors. Rocks, fossils and minerals all bear witness to the Earth's history and the origin of life on it. We also run temporary special exhibitions on a wide range of themes.

With its outstanding collections and research activities the Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe counts as one of the most important museums of its kind in Germany. Our botanists, entomologists, zoologists and geoscientists participate in international research projects around the world. This enables us to present the latest research findings in the museum.

The following organisations support the natural sciences and the work of the museum:

www.freunde-naturkundemuseum.de

www.nwv-karlsruhe.de



Zoological research: Collecting spiders with a beating net



Palaeontological research: Fossils close up

THE STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY KARLSRUHE – A MUSEUM FULL OF LIFE

Our museum's special attractions include its many live animal exhibits. The vivarium, in particular, contains aquariums and terrariums that mimic the natural habitats of exotic animals and a rainbow array of tropical fish. The new permanent exhibition called "Form and function – Inspired by nature" is also centred around a huge variety of animals, from jellies and fish through to crocodiles and turtles. Live animals can also be seen in other parts of the museum alongside specimens and exhibits. This enables visitors to observe directly the biological characteristics of living creatures.

The panther chameleon: one of many living animals in the Natural History Museum





Tell-tale signs: the „Animals in the forest“ school project

LEARNING AND TEACHING

With a wide variety of educational activities for all our visitors we aim to inspire interest in the diversity of the natural world. Guided tours and school projects, children's birthdays, talks and events to accompany permanent and temporary exhibitions – the museum offers something for everyone.

Guided Tours

- Public spotlight tours, Sunday tours, family tours
- Tours for school classes
- Tours for people with disabilities
- Tours for private groups

Talks and excursions

Scientists and specialists give exciting talks on their work and recent research to accompany our special exhibitions and on a wide range of nature and science themes.

Support is given by the Karlsruhe Natural History Society (Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein Karlsruhe e.V.), which also offers regional natural history excursions via the museum.

Special events

In addition to our regular programme, we also run one-day special events relating to temporary exhibitions as well as spring, winter and holiday and other events for children, and more.

Children's courses

Our courses for children ages 6-10 offer age-appropriate introductions to a wide variety of natural history topics. We explore the museum and learn about animals, fossils, rocks and much more.

Scientific experiments

Experimental programmes especially designed for preschool children provide a child-oriented introduction to scientific enquiry. The Children use simple materials and objects to carry out guided hands-on experiments.

Weekend activities for children

Children ages 6-10 can also explore the world of natural history in all its diversity on Saturdays. These sessions end with a creative activity.

Children's birthdays at the Natural Historical Museum

Children can celebrate their birthday with us and explore the museum with a discover guide or exciting tour.

Kindergarten programmes

Experience nature in play – we offer programmes for kindergarten groups with a choice of eleven topics from the exhibitions.

School student projects

Our projects use zoological specimens, fossils and other museum exhibits to facilitate action-based learning for students of all ages.

Educator professional development in the Natural History Museum

We are an important training partner for schools and kindergartens. Our professional courses introduce educators to our permanent and temporary exhibitions. They also explain the museum's learning and teaching activities and how they fit in with school classes and education projects.

Museum discover guides

Our discover guides for different age groups help young visitors to journey through the permanent galleries on their own while answering questions on specific topics and exhibits. Pick up your discover guide at the ticket desk.

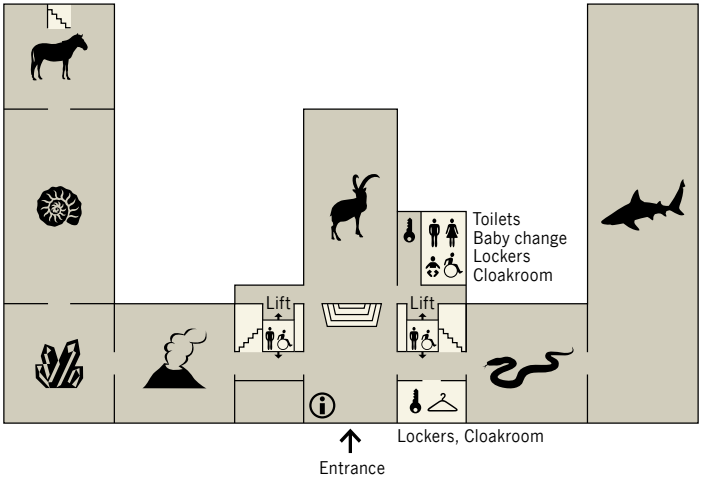
Information, enquiries and bookings (0721) 175-2152

Mondays and Wednesdays 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

MUSEUM GUIDE

GROUND FLOOR



TICKETS + INFORMATION

In the entrance hall you will find information about current museum events.



OUR CLASSICS: DIORAMAS

See the groups of mainly regional mammals and birds behind the main staircase. These popular dioramas showcase animals in realistically modelled natural habitats.





CLIMATE AND HABITATS – VIVARIUM

These exhibits focus on the impact of climate on habitats and living organisms as well as on the different ecological systems which exist in the regions of the world. Visitors get a glimpse of the animal world of the humid tropics and subtropical dry zones, from the colourful varieties of tropical coral reefs through to the abundance of fish in the world's cold oceans. Fish, amphibians, molluscs and reptiles can be observed in aquariums and terrariums which model the animals' habitats.

FORM AND FUNCTION – INSPIRED BY NATURE

Why do living creatures look the way they do? What function does an animal's appearance have? And how can nature be used in technical developments? This exhibition, which is one of its kind in Germany, answers these and many other questions. Various topics are illustrated using fascinating original exhibits and models as well as living creatures in impressive aquariums and terrariums. The centrepiece exhibit is the 240,000 litre giant aquarium with a black tip reef shark and the biggest living coral reef in Germany.





GEOLOGY ON THE UPPER RHINE

This exhibition brings petrified history to life and invites visitors on a journey into the geological past of the Upper Rhine landscape. Impressive large-scale models, interactive elements and engaging information panels help visitors understand what geology is all about. Visitors can use a relief model to explore the Upper Rhine Region interactively and an earthquake simulator to experience what it really feels like when the surface of the Earth shakes. A walk-in volcano conveys something of the power of these impressive fire mountains. Meteorites and the Earth's oldest rocks shed light on the origins of our planet.



THE REALM OF MINERALS

This room takes visitors on a journey into the (not only glittering) realm of minerals. The exhibition shows where they come from and reveals their internal structure and sheer beauty. Minerals from the Black Forest and the history of their use establish links with the region. We present specimens from our collections which are remarkable, unusual or just simply wonderful to look at. We also demonstrate the many uses for minerals without which our lives would be different.





LIFE IN PREHISTORIC TIMES

From the origins of life through to the first mammals, this exhibition takes visitors on a journey through the Earth's history. The earliest forms of life, such as trilobites and primitive marine segmented animals, date from the Palaeozoic era. Astounding skeletons of carnivorous dinosaurs can be found alongside casts and models of other extinct creatures. The exhibition also includes marine life such as ammonites from the Mesozoic era. Gigantic wall paintings convey an impression of the biological communities which existed in the ecosystems on land and in the oceans of the past.

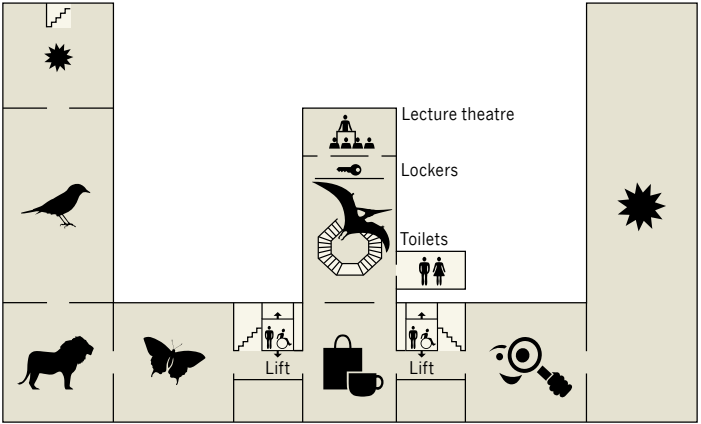
FOSSILS FROM SOUTHERN BADEN

Fossils found in Öhningen in southern Baden provide unique insights into what our region must have been like in the past. Our exhibition presents the fossils of animals which lived near the extinct volcano Höwenegg some 11 million years ago. The only complete skeleton of an extinct member of the horse family (*Hippotherium*) and other exhibits vividly illustrate the development of horses. The rooms contain the giant bones of early proboscidae (*Deinotherium*) as well as the impressive superbly preserved fossils of fishes, amphibians and reptiles from Öhningen.



MUSEUM GUIDE

UPPER FLOOR



THE ATRIUM

The central staircase to the upper floor leads directly to the Holzmaden wall. The wall consists of Black Jurassic rocks from the foothills of the Swabian Alb and shows fossils of fish, ichthyosaurs, ammonites, crinoids and a marine crocodile. Behind the wall you will find the lecture theatre.

Above the stairs “hovers” a life-sized model of *Hatzegopteryx thambema*. With a wingspan of 12 metres it is the world’s biggest model of a pterosaur!





MUSEUM SHOP + CAFÉ

The museum shop and café are located in the impressive “Kassettensaal” in the middle of the building. The museum shop has a wide range of interesting and unusual items relating to exhibition themes: minerals, fossils, books for children and adults, animal figures and much more.

The café offers snacks and refreshments, and an extraordinary view of the Friedrichsplatz in the centre of Karlsruhe!

ROTARY NATURE ROOM

Our museum’s educational activity area combines exhibition and activity rooms in a unique way. From the outside, the transparent walls resemble an oversized type case filled with an array of natural objects. Visitors can linger here and admire the zoological specimens, models, rocks, fossils and minerals. The inner area provides space for school projects, children’s courses, experiments and other museum learning and teaching events.





THE WORLD OF INSECTS

This unusually designed exhibition provides insights into the multifaceted insect world. Original exhibits, detailed large-scale models, photo and video sequences as well as living insects illustrate the wealth of forms, colours and ways of living of the most biodiverse groups of animals on our planet and show why they are so important for humans. Visitors are invited to explore the drawer contents and to discover original specimens as well as living insects, such as stick insects, hissing cockroaches, flower chafers or a colony of leafcutter ants.



AFRICAN HABITATS

The African continent is characterised by three main types of landscape. All three habitats are on display in this room: desert, savanna and tropical rainforest. The exhibition centres on specimens of large animals, such as lions, hyenas and impalas. It also includes living animals, such as the ornate mastigure which can be watched from close up and the interesting lungfish which live in the waters of various dry habitats in Africa.





REGIONAL FLORA AND FAUNA

Our exhibition on the natural world closer to home shows specimens of native mammals and birds in realistic models of the urban, forest or water habitats in which they live. An imposing eyecatcher is the example of one of the biggest animals to live in the wild in central Europe – the red deer. There are also some very popular strokeable animals for our young (and not so young) visitors. This room is the only one in the museum to retain its original historical architecture and columns.

☀ SPECIAL EXHIBITION SPACE I (SMALL)

Smaller temporary exhibitions and presentations

☀ SPECIAL EXHIBITION SPACE II (LARGE)

Large temporary exhibitions covering 700 m²



ACCESSIBILITY

All of the museum's exhibitions are accessible and its exhibition rooms can all be reached by lift. There are wheelchair-accessible toilets and baby-changing facilities on the ground floor. Pushchairs can be left on the ground floor if necessary.



DEAR VISITORS!

We want everyone to enjoy their visit – please abide by the following regulations:

- Please show consideration for other visitors and respect any instructions given by our staff.
- Please do not act in any way which might damage or endanger exhibits or display facilities.
- Large bags, rucksacks and other bulky items must be left in the lockers provided.
- Dogs are not permitted in the museum.
- Smoking is not permitted in the museum.
- Refreshments can be purchased in the café located in the museum shop. For those of our visitors who wish to bring their own food and drink we have provided tables and chairs in the “African habitats” room.
- Children must not be left unattended anywhere in the museum.
- You may only take photographs or film for non-commercial purposes (no flashes permitted when photographing aquariums and terrariums). You must obtain permission in advance for the use of tripods. Commercial use of photographic material of any kind is subject to written permission.

We wish you a pleasant stay in our museum!

Current events are detailed in in our quarterly what's on programme and on our website:

www.naturkundemuseum-karlsruhe.de

INFORMATION

NATURKUNDEMUSEUM KARLSRUHE

Erbprinzenstraße 13, 76133 Karlsruhe, Germany

Phone: +49 (0)721 175-2111, email: museum@naturkundeka-bw.de

www.naturkundemuseum-karlsruhe.de

ADMISSION PRICES

Permanent exhibition incl. small special exhibitions

Adults	5 €		
Concessions	3 €		
Ages 6–14, students	2 €		
Family ticket	10 €	Annual pass, adults	18 €
School groups, per student	1 €	Annual pass, concessions	14 €

Admission prices to large special exhibitions may differ.

Admission is free for

Children under 6 years of age, holders of the Museums-PASS-Musées, Karlsruher Kinderpass (not valid for accompanying person), Karlsruhe Card (only including permanent exhibitions)

Admission free to permanent exhibitions and small special exhibitions after 1 p.m. on Fridays (excluding public holidays)

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Closed on Mondays. For additional opening times refer to the Museum website.

ENQUIRIES AND INFORMATION

Museum education +49 (0)721 175-2152

Monday + Wednesday: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday + Thursday: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

GETTING HERE

By public transport: stop “Herrenstraße”

Stadtbahnen lines: S1, S11, S2, S5, S51, S52; Tram lines: 1 and 4

by car: car parks at “ECE-Center”, “IHK”, “Landesbibliothek” or “Friedrichsplatz”

IMPRINT State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe

Museum director: Prof. Dr. Norbert Lenz | Content: Monika Braun, Nina Gothe and Dr. Eduard Harms | Design: Susanne Asher | Photos: © SMNK | Illustrations: Margravine Karoline Luise von Baden: Painting by J. W. Hauwiler; Carl Christian Gmelin: Painting by Ott

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