

Media kit | 01/07/2020

National Museum Zurich

The National Museum Zurich is Switzerland's most visited museum of cultural history. The Museum presents history from the earliest times to the present day, exploring the country's historical complexity and cultural variety and showcasing what it means to be Swiss.

The National Museum is one of Zurich's most popular visitor attractions and is centrally located right next to the city's Hauptbahnhof. The Museum complex is an ensemble consisting of an elegant historic building dating from 1898 and an adjoining sculptural wing built in 2016, allowing visitors to walk through the old and the new.

In 2020, extensive renovation and expansion work under the management of architects Christ & Gantenbein was completed. The Swiss National Museum has also been nominated for the prestigious European Museum of the Year Award.

In addition to six permanent exhibitions, the complex on Museumstrasse presents around eight temporary exhibitions each year. These temporary displays cover historic and cultural topics, as well as issues relevant to society and social existence. The exhibitions are accompanied by discussions, talks, readings and workshops.

Exhibitions

In its six permanent exhibitions, the National Museum Zurich showcases the history of Switzerland from the earliest times to the present day. The *Archaeology exhibition* takes a look at the most important milestones in human history from prehistoric times up to Christianisation in the early Middle Ages. *'History of Switzerland'* tells the story of how Switzerland came to be over a period of 550 years, and also ventures a look at more contemporary history. Featuring more than 7,000 exhibits, the *Collection Exhibition* in the historic West Wing focuses on the craftsmanship and artistic accomplishments of Switzerland's people. In the family exhibition *'A Magic Carpet ride through history'*, children aged 5 and up can have a fun, hands-on tour through the topics Orient, Seafaring and Railways. The concepts that have forged Switzerland into a cohesive nation, shaped by the will of its people, are explored in *'Ideas of Switzerland'*, while *'Simply Zurich'* uncovers the fascinating past of the canton and city of Zurich.

Additional services

Visitors can listen to audio guides to the exhibitions on their own smartphones on the award-winning free app 'Landesmuseum'. There is also an innovative guide to navigate you through the Museum. On the digital highlights tour, you can experience the Museum's top attractions in 60 minutes. The tour is also offered in sign language. Families and children can set out to explore the Museum on their own with a 'discovery suitcase' or special puzzle books.

Study Centre and Library

The Study Centre consists of a library, the study collections for Numismatics, Historical photography, Graphics, Textile archives and Archaeology, and the image and collection archives. It's the perfect place to delve deeper into subjects concerning the history of civilisation, at well-equipped, modern workstations. With more than 80,000 literary and media titles, around 800 journals and five study collections, there's no shortage of material.

Boutique

In the National Museum's boutique shop, visitors will be spoiled for choice, with 2,000 items, most of them made in Switzerland, that are sure to appeal to visitors both young and old. From exhibition souvenirs and an extensive selection of books through to archaeology play sets for children, there really is something for just about everyone.

Dining

Under the name Spitz – in reference to the Platzspitz park – the Museum features a bistro, a bar and a restaurant offering indoor and outdoor seating for a total of 300 people. The restaurant specialises in high-quality regional produce and offers a new take on traditional dishes. The bistro is self-service, with straightforward menus, a range of drinks and a selection of coffees and bakery treats. For night owls, there's a bar offering classic drinks and innovative cocktails, right next to the railway station.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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Photos and captions

These images must be accompanied by the corresponding captions if used.



An ensemble of old and new: the National Museum Zurich complex is made up of two parts: the elegant historic building, and the adjoining new sculptural wing, allowing visitors to walk through the old and the new.

© Swiss National Museum



The National Museum from the air.

© Swiss National Museum



Original Baroque hall with paintings from 1667, from the 'Haus zum Langen Stadelhof' in Zurich. Part of the **permanent exhibition 'Collection in the West Wing'**. The portraits depict members of the French royal house and their political adversaries, as well as protagonists of the Thirty Years' War. The tiled floor is a reconstruction of the floor laid in 1898.

© Swiss National Museum



Altar screen featuring St Anne, 1521

Location: Collection in the West Wing | Ground floor

From the 13th century onwards, depictions of St Anne, the mother of Mary, start to appear. On the altar screen, the Christ Child is held gently by Mary and Anne. The scene is set in a room resembling a chapel, with ogival tracery windows. The architecture reflects the characteristic forms of the late Gothic. Permanent loan from the Gottfried Keller Foundation, Federal Office of Culture, Bern.

© Swiss National Museum



Important ring collection

Location: Collection in the West Wing | Ground floor

In 1820 Johann Wolfgang Goethe presented this ring to Wilhelmine Herzlieb, 40 years his junior, with whom he had fallen in love. Sadly, his feelings were not reciprocated. The object of his affections married another man. Permanent loan from the Alice and Louis Koch Foundation.

© Swiss National Museum



Art and Science

Location: Collection in the West Wing | Ground floor

The little celestial globe is a multifunctional machine which not only shows the course of the sun and the constellations, but also features a clock and a perpetual calendar. It provides a depiction of the visible cosmos.

© Swiss National Museum



Over an area of 1,000 m², the permanent exhibition **'History of Switzerland'** depicts how Switzerland came to be over a period of 550 years – beginning in the late Middle Ages, through the early modern era to the democratic institutions facing the challenges of globalisation today.

Swiss National Museum



Alliance carpet

Location: History of Switzerland | Ground floor

Mercenary contracts with France were a lucrative business for the Confederation from the early 16th century. In 1663, the Confederation renewed its alliance with King Louis XIV. The carpet was made between 1705 and 1723, and depicts the signing of the agreement in Notre-Dame in Paris.

© Swiss National Museum



Swiss flag

Location: History of Switzerland | Ground floor

To maintain its neutrality, the Federal Council strives to avoid causing affront to any party in a conflict. Swiss diplomacy is thus a balancing act. This flag flew over the Swiss legation in Berlin during the war. It has noticeable bullet holes.

© Swiss National Museum



The **permanent exhibition 'Archaeology of Switzerland'** uses around 1,400 exhibits from all over Switzerland to illustrate the most important stages in the prehistory and early history of humankind. With stunning visual imagery, the exhibition combines old objects with modern technology.

© Swiss National Museum



Hand axe, Micoquien style

Location: Permanent exhibition 'Archaeology of Switzerland'

One of the first tools known to humankind is the hand axe, which is made of flint or quartz and serves as a knife. The oldest hand axe found in Switzerland is around 100,000 years old and was probably made and used by a Neanderthal man. The Schlieren hand axe is the oldest object in the collection of the Swiss National Museum.

© Swiss National Museum



Family exhibition

The exhibition 'A Magic Carpet ride through history' has been designed especially for children and offers not only original objects but also games, audio points and activities.

© Swiss National Museum



Boutique

The shop at the Swiss National Museum stocks 2,000 items, most of them made in Switzerland.

© Swiss National Museum

GENERAL INFORMATION

Opening times

Tue – Sun 10.00 – 5.00 | Thu 10.00 – 7.00

Public holidays 10.00 – 5.00

Admission

Adults CHF 10 | reduced price CHF 8

Children and teenagers up to 16 years free

Reservation desk (guided tours & events)

Mon – Fri 9.00 – 12.30

T. +41 (0)44 218 66 00 | reservationen@nationalmuseum.ch



- The new building is wheelchair accessible
- Bistro, restaurant and bar in the Museum
- Boutique: sale of postcards, catalogues, posters, etc.
- WC / WC for disabled

National Museum Zurich

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www.landmuseum.ch



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