

Universalmuseum Joanneum Press

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Universalmuseum Joanneum Austria's first museum

The Joanneum was founded as the first public museum in Austria in 1811 by Archduke Johann in the spirit of the Enlightenment, to "spread the education of the mind", "to stimulate curiosity", and "to facilitate learning". 200 years later, too, this mission still has currency, even though the world, and the Joanneum as well, have changed fundamentally since 1811.

Today the Joanneum is one of the largest universal museums in Europe, with over twentytwo collections in its custody, which are organised into ten museum departments. Four further departments assume central "service functions" for the running of the museum, as well as for handling visitors to the Universalmuseum Joanneum. More than 4.7 million collection objects form the basis for a programme of exhibition and events broad in theme terms, which is on show in thirteen museum locations in Graz, as well as Trautenfels, Stainz, Stübing, Premstätten, Alpl, Krieglach and Wagna. The Universalmuseum Joanneum set a record in 2016 with some 600,000 visitors, and employs around 500 personnel to carry out its tasks and mission.

In the first few decades of its existence, the Joanneum was an educational and research institution with a scientific, technical emphasis; the collections that belonged to this served both for study and museum presentation purposes. The Joanneum's address at the time was the 'Lesliehof' in Raubergasse, Graz, to which a large Botanical Garden was attached, known as the 'Joanneum Garden', which lasted till the 1880s. Archduke Johann succeeded in winning some important scientists for the Joanneum: the mineralogist Friedrich Mohs developed the hardness scale for minerals named after him, and Franz Xaver Unger, the 'father of palaeobotany', as well as Nikola Tesla, the inventor of the alternating current, all researched and taught in Graz. In 1864 the Joanneum attained the rank of a 'k.k. (imperial and royal) technical university'. From 1878 to 1887 the university or 'Hochschule' was split up (from 1975: Technical University of Graz) and the collections were reorganised into the Landesmuseum Joanneum. Throughout the 19th century, other important scientific-cultural facilities developed from the Joanneum, such as the Montan University Leoben, the Styrian State Archive and the Styrian State Library.

Science and history as well as the art and culture of Styria were the main themes for the Joanneum collections around 1900. Throughout the 20th century this profile was further developed, becoming more differentiated. Buildings of architectural and historical importance – palaces, the residences of the nobility, former monasteries etc. – turned into museum locations. In 2003, the decision was taken to change the Landesmuseum Joanneum, previously closely linked to the Steiermärkische Landesverwaltung, into a not-for-profit GmbH (limited company).

Under the management of Peter Pakesch (artistic director until autumn 2015) and Wolfgang Muchitsch (scientific director), a comprehensive process of modernisation was introduced in the same year, which reached its peak (for now) in 2011, the 200th anniversary of the Joanneum, which has been called the 'Universalmuseum Joanneum' since 2009: the opening of the Joanneum Quarter meant the merging of the historical museum and library buildings in Raubergasse, Neutorgasse and Kalchberggasse into one functional and architectural unit, which is linked via an underground visitors' centre. The Joanneum Quarter, which also leaves a strong urban imprint on Graz's old town, is among Austria's largest cultural centres, and provides the location for the Neue Galerie Graz, the Natural History Museum and the Styrian State Library.

The collections of the Universalmuseum Joanneum represent a period of several millions of years, and are conveyed by means of inspiring and informative exhibitions, both permanent and special, as well as through other events that plumb the subject more deeply. The variety of themes and areas of knowledge also enable unusual and inter-disciplinary approaches to complex issues. Overall, the Universalmuseum Joanneum places great emphasis on a mode of presentation that is both visitor-friendly and contemporary, with the primary focus on optimal collaboration between the various locations and collections, which in their great variety all help shape the unique character of the Joanneum.

Museums and locations

Styrian Armoury

Address: Herrengasse 16, 8010 Graz

The internationally renowned Styrian Armoury was built by the Styrian Estates as the first public museum in Austria between 1642 and 1645 and was once the most important weapons store in the south-east of the Habsburg Empire. In the 17th century, arms for simple foot-soldiers and horsemen were initially kept here for the defence of the province. As early as the mid-18th century, the Armoury had lost any importance from a military viewpoint, yet remained as a museum. Today, the largest armaments store in the world still fascinates us with its unique atmosphere. The packed presentation of some 32,000 implements of war (e.g. suits of armour, chain-mail shirts, helmets, diverse weapons) covering four floors remains closely aligned to the original appearance.

www.landeszeughaus.at

Kunsthhaus Graz

Address: Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz

The Kunsthhaus Graz was opened in 2003 as the architectural conclusion to the 'European Cultural Capital Year'. In the meantime, the 'Friendly Alien', with its biomorphic architecture designed by Peter Cook and Colin Fournier is not only a drawing point for art and culture lovers the world over, it's also an essential component of Graz's urban planning identity. As an exhibition location for contemporary art, it places international trends in both a national and regional context. The BIX Media Façade of the Kunsthhaus Graz, conceived by the Berlin designers 'realities:united', represents a unique fusion of architecture and media technology. Like an urban screen, it serves as an instrument for artistic communication.

The Kunsthhaus Graz is a joint commitment undertaken by the Province of Styria and the City of Graz within the framework of the Universalmuseum Joanneum.

www.kunsthhausgraz.at

History Museum

Address: Sackstraße 16, 8010 Graz

The History Museum was opened in April 2017 under the motto, 'Come to us, your history is already here!' This museum, housing jointly the Cultural-Historical Collection and the Multi-Media Collections, invites visitors to view the ways in which Styria has come into being and changed since the Middle Ages, from a range of ever-new perspectives. The presentation of both collections in the form of a display storage depot shows the abundance of in-house objects as a dense collage of thousands of objects. Special exhibitions pick up changing themes that are of interest for the people of today looking back on the province's past.

www.museumfuergeschichte.at

The Museumsakademie Joanneum stands for the development and professionalization of museum work and exhibiting, by organizing further education and training; by providing research, consultancy and documentation; and acting as a platform for museum-related discourse at all levels, be it in-house, national or international.

www.museumsakademie.at

Schloss Eggenberg

Address: Eggenberger Allee 90, 8020 Graz

Schloss Eggenberg, State Rooms

Schloss Eggenberg is a unique unified work of Baroque art, in which architecture and décor combine to make a complex, symbolic depiction of the universe. The residence of the imperial governor Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg is both political architecture, and an ambitious justification of one family's rule. In 2010 Schloss Eggenberg was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, not least because of the castle's important 'bel étage', whose original décor has remained unchanged since the 18th century. The cycle of 24 State Rooms, with their splendid tapestries, historical furniture, and more than 500 ceiling decorations, are among the most important ensembles of historical interiors that Austria possesses. At the centre can be found the magnificent Planetary Room with paintings by court artist Hans Adam Weissenkircher.

Schloss Eggenberg, Gardens

Since its creation in the early 17th century, Eggenberg Garden has seen many changes and reflected the taste of each period concerned. Only a few traces remain of the formal Baroque garden of Prince Eggenberg, which surrounded the palace with its rich 'parterres de broderie' and high clipped hedges. The palace today is located in an extensive landscape garden from the Romantic period, which with its valuable stock of trees is among the nation's most precious garden monuments. Among the specialities of this 'landscape painting' can be counted the artistic Rose Mound, which was reconstructed in Chinese style complete with 'parapluie', and a small formal orchard, in which some 50 historical apple and pear varieties, recalling the long tradition of the orchard in Schloss Eggenberg Garden.

www.worldheritageeggenberg.com

Alte Galerie, Schloss Eggenberg

In 22 rooms of the Schloss Eggenberg, the Alte Galerie presents 500 years of European history reflected in the mirror of art. Varying groups of pictures convey our own cultural past by means of sheer pleasure taken in beauty: outstanding examples of Austrian Gothic bear witness to the religious fervour of the Middle Ages; detailed allegorical pictures tell of life in the Early Modern Period; first-class examples evidencing the Renaissance are on show, as is the splendidly colourful world of Baroque world theatre. Among the highlights of the Alte Galerie are the fascinating 'Admonter Madonna', and masterpieces by the likes of Lucas Cranach the Elder, Pieter Breughel the Younger, Johann Georg Platzer and M. J. Schmidt ('Schmidt of Krems').

www.altegalerie.at

Archaeology Museum, Schloss Eggenberg

The modern Archaeology Museum in the park at Schloss Eggenberg shows more than 1,200 objects which, as 'traces of life', form starting points for questions that have moved mankind over millennia. Highlights of the permanent exhibition are the objects of world significance from the Hallstatt Period such as the *Strettweg Chariot*, or the *Mask of Kleinklein*, but also the most precious find from the Roman period in Styria, the *Silver Beaker of Grünau*. This museum aims to reach out to all those interested in people, their lives and worlds, their modes of religious expression, and changing social conditions. Moreover, we set out to convey just how limited and fragmentary our knowledge of the past often is – and the questions that leaves unanswered.

www.archaeologiemuseum.at

Coin Cabinet, Schloss Eggenberg

Coins are more than just a means of payment – they reflect in great detail the politics and culture of societies. The collection of coins at the Universalmuseum Joanneum mirrors the history of coins in Styria from antiquity through to the end of the 18th century, including fascinating treasure troves and outstanding pieces from the Graz mint. The permanent exhibition at the Coin Cabinet in the oldest part of Schloss Eggenberg tells memorable stories of coins from Styria – whether the Panthertaler from the Graz mint, the mop-haired types from the Celts, the gold coin from Flavia Solva, which was reworked into an item of jewellery, or the Renaissance medallion treasure belonging to Archduke Karl II of Inner Austria.

www.muenzkabinett.at

Folk Life Museum

Address: Paulustorgasse 11-13a, 8010 Graz

What do things that once accompanied people's daily lives have to say to us? Since 1913 the Folk Life Museum has collected, preserved and interpreted material objects that provide evidence of social life and human fates. The focus was originally on agricultural society before the two world wars. Today, the museum's attention is turned towards life in a globalised world, which redefines its roots based on cultural relics.

www.volkskundemuseum-graz.at

Joanneum Quarter

Address: Joanneumsviertel, 8010 Graz

Neue Galerie Graz

In the spacious rooms of the Joanneum Quarter, the Neue Galerie Graz presents exhibitions that link up particularly with the in-house collection. The comprehensive spectrum of these items spans artistic movements such as Biedermeier, Realism, Jugendstil, regional forms of classical Modernism, Austrian and international painting post-1945 – including work from the so-called 'Trigon countries' – Viennese Actionism, as well as media and conceptual art. In 2016 the extensive donation of the Suschnigg Collection expanded the collections of the Neue Galerie Graz with numerous works of international Pop Art and contemporary Austrian painting.

www.neuegaleriegraz.at

BRUSEUM

Within the Neue Galerie Graz, the BRUSEUM is set up as the centre of expertise and exhibition space for the comprehensive work of Styrian artist Günther Brus. Besides its key significance as a permanent public exhibition location that presents the artist's work in all its complexity, the BRUSEUM is also seen as a scientific institute beyond the borders of Austria. The BRUSEUM is dedicated to preserving central parts of the work of Günther Brus for the general public, as well as for research, scientific work and renovation undertaken of the same.

www.bruseum.at

Natural History Museum

The Joanneum's natural history collections (botany, zoology, geology & palaeontology, mineralogy), the cornerstone of which was laid by Archduke Johann with his private collections, are housed in the Study and Collection Centre in Graz-Andritz, where they can be investigated under ideal conservational conditions and in laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment. The opening of the Natural History Museum in March 2013 made visible again to the public the 'stem cells' of the Joanneum within the context of an innovative exhibition concept. As part of this, the original layout of the International Mineral System is on display as a 'museum within the museum'.

www.naturkunde.at

Schloss Stainz

Address: Schlossplatz 1, 8510 Stainz

Hunting Museum Schloss Stainz

Austria's largest hunting museum understands hunting as a historical, sociological and philosophical-ethical phenomenon, and addresses a broad public by means of an interdisciplinary approach. The first floor of the permanent exhibition is devoted to the cultural history of hunting: valuable exhibits of the most varied provenance – baroque animal pictures and courtly objects of splendour, artistically made powder horns, but also everyday objects and folkloristic miracle remedies – show the far-reaching effects of hunting on art, literature, music and film. On the second floor, the tour of the museum concludes with an exciting stalk, where you can keep an eye out for animal tracks and listen to animal sounds. Moreover, you can learn much of interest about issues concerning the ecology of game and the responsibilities of modern hunting.

www.jagdmuseum-stainz.at

Agriculture Museum Schloss Stainz

The variety of work modes and forms of life in agriculture and forestry are clearly depicted in an informative permanent exhibition, which, using historical objects and interactive media stations, spans a broad range of themes from the pre-industrial age right up to the challenges of the 21st century. The Agricultural Collection is based on the progressive ideas of Archduke Johann: besides numerous societies and institutions, Archduke Johann founded the k.k. (Imperial and Royal) Agricultural Society in 1819. An important aspect of this society was the documentation of agricultural machines and implements. Common tools, especially farming equipment, were adopted, produced and collected as models. Many of these models can now be found in the Agricultural Collection.

www.landwirtschaftsmuseum-stainz.at

Schloss Trautenfels

Address: Trautenfels 1, 8951 Stainach-Pürgg

The history of the nature and culture of the Styrian Enns Valley and the Ausseerland lie at the heart of the Schloss Trautenfels collection, which has combined evidence from zoology, geology and mineralogy since 1950s, as well as folkloristic objects and archaeological finds from the region. Besides the extensive permanent collection in the Agriculture Museum and thematically varied special exhibitions, Schloss Trautenfels fascinates with its high-quality baroque décor and its unforgettable view of the surrounding mountains!

www.schloss-trautenfels.at

Austrian Sculpture Park

Address: Thalerhofstraße 85, 8141 Premstätten

Located seven kilometres south of Graz, the Austrian Sculpture Park has established itself since its founding in 2003 as a centre for modern sculpture. The fascinating park grounds of the landscape architect Dieter Kienast stretch over a plot of land seven hectares in size, and is a space that allows more than 60 sculptures to unfold. Works of renowned Austrian artists – from Fritz Wotruba and Franz West through to Erwin Wurm, Heimo Zobernig and Michael Kienzer – communicate here with examples of international sculpture such as Jeppe Hein, Nancy Rubins, Tobias Rehberger or Susana Solano. Special tours and the most varied events help convey the continuously changing collection of the Austrian Sculpture Park, which is integrated into scientific discourse through symposia and publications. The unique atmosphere of this park also makes it a popular event venue!

www.skulpturenpark.at

Flavia Solva

Address: Marburgerstraße 111, 8435 Wagna bei Leibnitz

To be found close to the south Styrian market community of Wagna, Flavia Solva is the only Roman city in Styria and the most important site from the Roman era in the province. The settlement located near to an earlier Celtic tribal centre received the town charter under Emperor Vespasian around 70 C.E. The local Celtic population was very open to new influences from Rome and rapidly adopted Roman culture and civilisation. Besides the extensive archaeological finds, this is documented in the numerous inscriptions and reliefs to be found frequently in many locations on the grounds of the ancient city. In 2017 Flavia Solva was relaunched together with its surroundings. The new exhibition, free of charge and presented in a completely new concept, shows the most important objects from the more than 130-year research history of Flavia Solva. The museum pavilion is now presented as a showcase that can be visited from outside. One key element of the presentation is the history of Flavia Solva from the viewpoint of urban research. The conservation of Roman-period ruins and the design of the 20,000 m² open area are important aspects of the new concept.

www.flviasolva.at

Rosegger's Birthplace

Address: Alpl 42, 8671 Alpl

The Austrian popular poet Peter Rosegger was born on 31st July 1843 as the first of seven children in this simple peasant's house from the 18th century. The living conditions were extremely modest: cooking was carried out over the fireplace in the 'smoke kitchen', the central room was used for eating and sleeping, but also for working. Numerous furnishings that provide evidence of the simple peasant's life in the 19th century can be viewed here. Today the Rosegger Birthplace is still reached only by foot: a half-hour walk through Alpl forest country leads up to the ensemble of buildings, which consist of a dwelling, outhouses, a barn, a rural store house and a dried flaxen hut. Peter Rosegger often draws on memories of his childhood on the Alpl and coined the notion of 'Waldheimat' ('forest home') for this place. His birthplace was also where he took his first tentative steps towards becoming a writer, an endeavour later to be followed by an extensive body of literary works.

www.rosegger-geburtshaus.at

Rosegger Museum

Address: Roseggerstraße 44, 8670 Krieglach

In the former country home of Peter Rosegger (1843–1918) in Krieglach, a small exhibition traces the various phases in the Styrian poet's life and work. On show are various letters and documents, as well as pictures and writings showing, among other things, that Rosegger was in close contact with numerous artists of his day. This presentation is set up in the former private rooms of Peter Rosegger, who had this house built in 1877 based on his own designs. His study, as well as the room he passed away in, have been preserved on the first floor of the museum, and convey an authentic sense of Peter Rosegger's lifestyle and – in contrast with the house of his birth – of his social rise from a peasant child to a successful author, also financially speaking.

www.rosegger-museum.at

Austrian Open-Air Museum Stübing

Address: Enzenbach 32, 8114 Stübing

Professor Viktor Herbert Pöttler has planned the Austrian Open-Air Museum and built it up in its basic features. The Austrian open-air museum with historical objects from all the federal states of Austria should not only be a collection of different buildings, but also offer the opportunity to compare the different types of houses of the individual federal states. The historical buildings are arranged geographically as in Austria from east to west. The 65-hectare museum site itself was made available to the Styrian Foundation.

www.freilichtmuseum.at