

# Universalmuseum Joanneum Press office

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## The Folk Life Museum

**Folk Life Museum, Paulustorgasse 11-13a, 8010 Graz**

Opening hours:

1st March to 30th November

Wed-Fri.: 4pm – 8pm

Sat, Sun.: 2pm – 6pm

On advance notice it is possible for groups and school classes to visit the Folk Life Museum also outside normal opening hours between March and November from Monday to Friday.

December to February closed

Information: +43-316/8017-9899

Founded in 1913 under Viktor von Geramb as a department of the Landesmuseum Joanneum, the Folk Life Museum has a unique collection dating mainly from pre-industrial times. Over 40,000 objects document the material and intellectual folk culture of Styria. The museum is housed in the early 17th-century, former Capuchin monastery in Graz's Paulustorgasse, at the foot of the Schlossberg. It also comprises a more recent structure from the 1930s with exhibition rooms designed at that time, the Folk Costumes Room and the Implements Hall.

The church of St Antonius with paintings by Pietro de Pomis and Hans Adam Weissenkirchner likewise forms part of the extended museum complex. An annual event dating back to 1916 is a performance here of „Styrian Pastoral“ and „Cradle Songs“, i.e. traditional songs from the museum's collection and new versions by Styrian musicians.

The redesigned exhibition on Styrian folk culture is mainly thematically organized under the headings of „Homes, Dress and Faith“, and shows the relationships between social and cultural patterns and the objects people used.

The specialist folk-life library with around 12,000 separate volumes and 80 current specialist journals, periodicals and publications is available to the public for reference purposes (no lending facilities). In the archive section attached to the library, there is copious source material on Styrian folk culture – collections of regional material, inventories and survey reports. The topics range from social life and customs via work and equipment, folk medicine, folk songs, folk music and folk theatre to popular piety, magic and superstition.

The extensive pictorial material with around 20,000 colour slides and many historic photos offers excellent illustrative material on the above topics. The Folk Life Museum sees itself as a platform for a lively, critical debate on matters of historical and contemporary folk culture. Its activities are oriented to people of all ages.