Supporting association

The association of the »Friends and Sponsors of the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin« supports the Museum in the fulfilment of its tasks. These lie in the fields of education, research, and conservation of the collections. The association was set up in 1996 by people from Berlin and Brandenburg. In these times of limited public funding we depend on donations and on the funding from our own independent project work.

Benefits:

- free entry into the museum
- information updates
- free entry to events where free entry for members is specified
- access to the library

Send your application to the executive board:

An den Vorstand der Freunde und
Förderer des Museums für Naturkunde
Invalidenstraße 43 · D-10115 Berlin
Telefon: +49(0)30-42 80 65 74
Telefax: +49(0)30-2093-8814

First name, surname: _____

Address: _____

Zip/Postcode: _____

Phone/ Fax: _____

Profession: _____

I hereby request admission as a member, subject to confirmation by the executive board and I will pay the following yearly contribution:

☐ Individual: 30,– €

☐ Reduced (students, senior citizens, unemployed): 15,– €

☐ **30 € +**: Annual fee 30 € per person + donation

☐ I am interested and request further information

museum für naturkunde
Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions- und Biodiversitätsforschung

Invalidenstraße 43 · D-10115 Berlin
Phone: +49(0)30-2093-8591
Fax: +49(0)30-2093-8814
www.naturkundemuseum-berlin.de

/MfN.Berlin / MfNBerlin YouTube/MfNBerlin

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday 9.30–18.00 hrs.
Saturday, Sunday, Public holidays 10.00–18.00 hrs.
closed on Mondays

Guided tours
Children‘s birthday party:

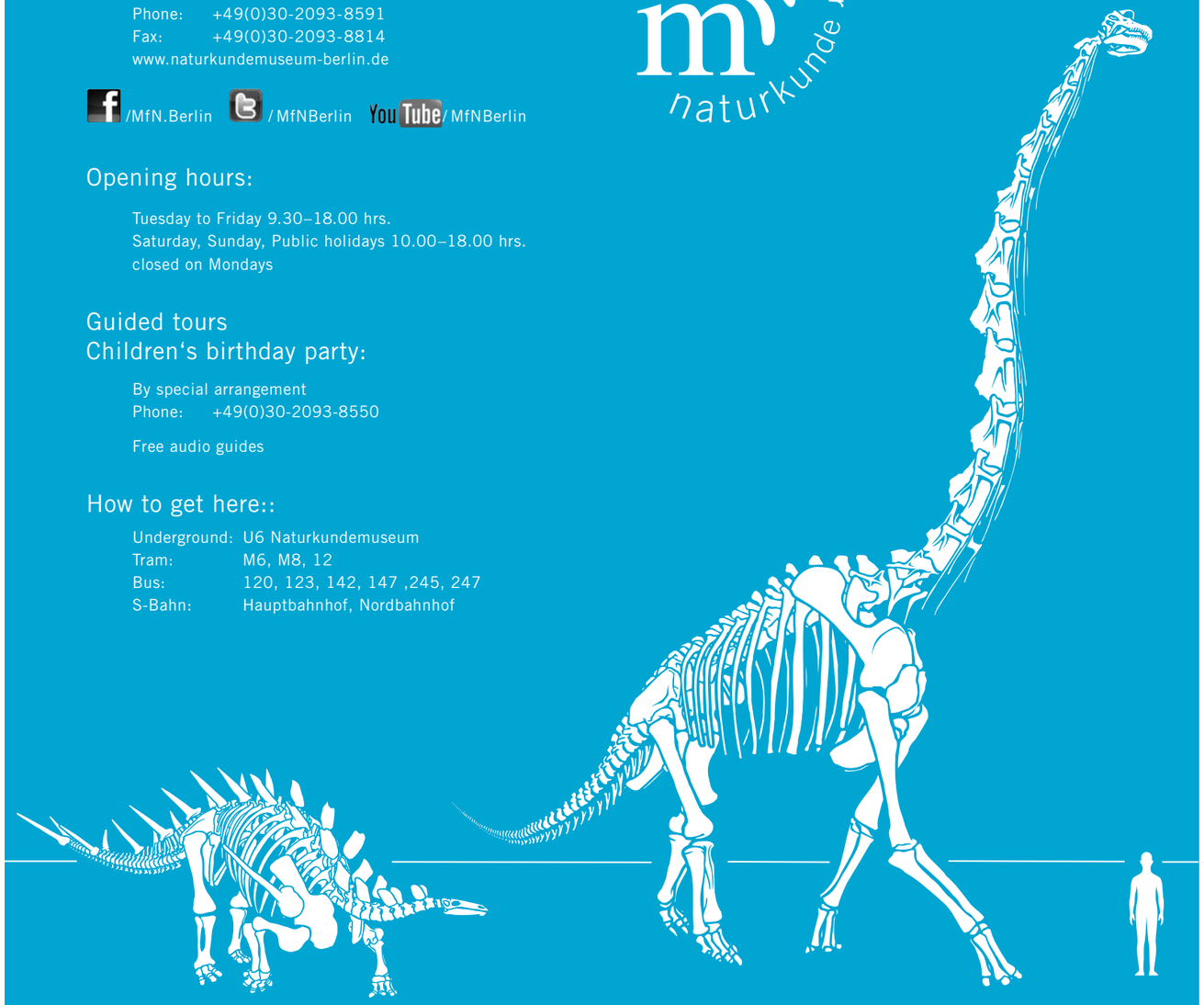
By special arrangement
Phone: +49(0)30-2093-8550

Free audio guides

How to get here::

Underground: U6 Naturkundemuseum
Tram: M6, M8, 12
Bus: 120, 123, 142, 147 ,245, 247
S-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof, Nordbahnhof

museum für naturkunde



english

Dear Visitor,

Welcome to the Museum für Naturkunde. This leaflet shows you at a glance what fascinating exhibitions await you.
We are particularly proud of our new »Evolution in Action« exhibitions that opened in July 2007 and have been seen by 500,000 visitors per year. Lottery (Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin) as well as EU funding allowed us to refurbish and revamp two thirds of the exhibition area. The new exhibitions highlight selected aspects of current scientific work of the Museum under the general theme “The Evolution of the Earth and Life on it”. They reveal not only the diversity of our research subjects, but also their close relationship with each other.
To pick out some highlights from everything that’s new is difficult. Especially ‘eye-catching‘ is, however, the world´s largest mounted dinosaur skeleton, *Brachiosarus brancai*, now in the Guiness Book of Records with its height of 13.27m (43½ ft.). Also spectacular is the original specimen of the ancient bird *Archaeopteryx lithographica* – probably the most famous fossil of the world – which is now on display for the first time.
The new permanent exhibitions will be supplemented by a modernised hall, in which we can present for the first time larger special exhibitions. Currently the Museum für Naturkunde is entering a new reconstruction phase. We are working on concepts for new exhibits in the halls that are presently closed and plan to open these to the public by 2016.
The ‘old‘ part of the exhibition still has lots of attractions to offer. From our famous large dioramas to the over 1000 objects in the mineral collection. In the Humboldt-exploratorium visitors can take their first steps into the world of science or celebrate a unique birthday party with their children.
An essential prerequisite for being accepted as a member of the Wissenschaftsgemeinschaft Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (Leibniz Association) in 2009 was the reconstruction of the East Wing, which had been destroyed in World War II. After only three years of construction, a state-of-the art, purpose-built wet collection building was opened in September 2010. As the new East Wing has now become part of the tour of the Museum, visitors have access to a cutting-edge research collection. The East Wing is an interface between archive, state-of-the art research institution and future-oriented knowledge transfer. If you would like to find out more about the history of the Museum, its collections and exhibitions, we can recommend our Museum Guide, the Museum Guide for Children (available only in German) and the book “Class, Order, Species – 200 Years of the Museum für Naturkunde”, which are available from the Museum Shop alongside other products.

Enjoy your journey of discovery through our museum!

Humboldt Exploratorium

Exploring nature and discovering something new – here children and young adults are taught practical things about natural history, ecology and environmental protection. While using microscopes or carrying out excavations, you have the chance to try being a scientist yourself.

Preparation Techniques

Specimens from different historical time periods give an insight into the development of preparation techniques. We show how from a dead animal a skeletal preparation, a skin for the scientific collections or a dermoplastic for the exhibition is created – or how fossils and minerals are prepared.

Evolution in Action

This exhibition was established in 2007. It shows selected mechanisms of evolution, which help us understand the appearance, behaviour and diversity of plants and animals. Here, we show how the impressive feathers of a peacock's tail can be explained, even though it can hardly fly with them, or why zebras have stripes.

Cosmos and Solar System

Established in 2007, this exhibit connects the dimensions of space and time. It offers exciting insights into the origins of the planets, beginning with the Big Bang. Meteorites can be seen as eye-witnesses to these processes. For the first time the upper levels of one of the cast-iron staircases has been integrated into the exhibition.

System Earth

Ever since its emergence, the Earth has constantly been changing. Life-forms have to adapt, while at the same time they influence the Earth's systems themselves. The result is a highly dynamic planet, on which the living and non-living world is closely interconnected. These complex relations are shown through some examples here.

Minerals

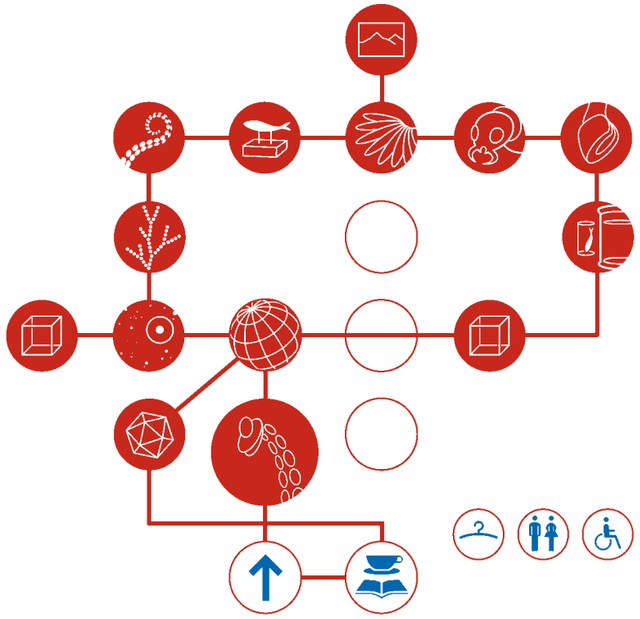
In the mineralogical display, in the largely original hall dating from the 19th century, visitors can see more than 1000 different types of mineral. Among them are precious specimens collected in Russia by Alexander von Humboldt.

The World of Dinosaurs

The dinosaur hall has been redesigned to focus on the habitat of dinosaurs in the Tendaguru area in East Africa 150 million years ago. The central exhibit is the largest mounted dinosaur skeleton in the world, *Brachiosaurus brancai*, while "Jurascopes" create a virtual world where dinosaurs come to life again. The original of the famous Berlin specimen of the primeval bird *Archaeopteryx lithographica*, discovered in Bavaria in 1876, is now on display.

The Wet Collections

After three years of construction, the East Wing was opened in Septermber 2010, one of the most technically advanced collection buildings in the world, housing scientific wet collections.
The 276 000 vials containing approximately one million animals are stored in 80 tonnes of ethanol under conditions meeting up-to-date safety standards. The East Wing has been included in our Museum tour, giving visitors an insight into a state-of-the art reseach collection that is used by scientists on a daily basis.



Major Dioramas

Three especially impressive, historical large dioramas (from the ancient Greek: to look through) were built between 1918 and 1925. The display cabinets show life-sized animal preparations against a background based on their natural environment.

Birds

Over 300 preparations show nearly all central European bird species, their features and their habitats, all posed in their typical natural settings. Special cases show prize-winning bird preparations from international competitions, as well as the current »Bird of the year«.

Insect Models

This is a display of the unique insect models created by Alfred Keller. Most of them show indigenous species, 15 to 100 times magnified. They were built in the Museum für Naturkunde between 1930 and 1955 and have been given centre-stage again to celebrate the bicentenary of the Museum.

Dermoplastics

Many of the exhibits previously found in the former ungulates hall can be viewed here in their new setting. Several of them are up to 100 years old. With the exception of the hippopotamus group, all the exhibits displayed here are animal specimens that have been mounted dermoplastically. With this technique, the original animal skin is used to prepare a synthetic animal form.

Special Exhibits

We regularly have special exhibits as a part of our regular program. These exhibits present current topics in science and projects based on the research being undertaken at the Museum für Naturkunde, and frequently there are art and photography exhibitions as well. Information on the current and upcoming special exhibits can be found on our website at www.naturkundemuseum-berlin.de.

Construction Work

Currently the Museum für Naturkunde is entering a new reconstruction phase. We are working on concepts for new exhibits in the halls that are presently closed and plan to open these to the public by 2016.