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## **New Year's reception including film presentation *Archiv der Zukunft* by Joerg Burger and 2024 Outlook by Katrin Vohland**

The Natural History Museum Vienna and Stadtkino Filmverleih are pleased to extend an invitation to the press screening of the new film

### **ARCHIV DER ZUKUNFT by Joerg Burger** AT | 2023 | 92 minutes

on Thursday, 18 January 2024, at 12:30 pm in the Stadtkino

### **2024 Outlook presented by CEO Dr. Katrin Vohland**

Following the film, NHM CEO and Scientific Director, Dr Katrin Vohland, will present the 2024 programme and current projects, including the structural development and redesign of the entrance area, renovation of the biological collections, temporary exhibitions, construction of an Ice Age Hall for children, digitisation of the collections, etc.

**Venue:** Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus, Akademiestraße 13, 1010 Wien

**Admission:** from 12:15

**Start:** 12:30

#### **Press material**

##### **On the film**

<https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/presse/pressemitteilungen2024/film>

##### **On the 2024 | 2025 outlook**

<https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/presse/pressemitteilungen2024/ausblick>

## Strategic focus

The Natural History Museum Vienna (NHM Vienna) requires structural and architectural adjustments in order to ensure it satisfies the needs of research, collections, science communication and the demands brought about by a growing number of visitors. The newly renovated Room 6 was opened under the name of “Planet Earth” to serve as a connecting space between minerals, meteorites and fossils as witnesses to the origin of life (see press photos). This newly designed permanent exhibition demonstrates that honouring the outstanding architecture and magnificent visual art of the building does not detract in any way from the presentation of modern scientific findings.

This experience will inform the approach to other activities over the next few years: the biological collections will be modernised, with display cases being basically preserved, which includes the reorganisation of the collection and the redesign of the entrance area to ensure genuinely barrier-free access. This project has been made possible by the efforts of the Austrian Ministry for Arts and Culture (BMKÖS), as the modernisation of the visitor infrastructure at the NHM, Art History Museum (KHM) and Belvedere has been accounted for in the Finance Minister's budget plans and the corresponding legislation.

In the digital sphere, the NHM Vienna has bolstered its visibility and leading role in the area of open science in order to make its diverse and important collections accessible to the science community and the public at large. The NHM is involved in European research projects, seeking, for instance, to develop new methods for linking taxonomic and genetic data with climate data (FAIRiCUBE<sup>1</sup>). In addition, the NHM Vienna is in charge of the OSCA (*Open Scientific Collections Austria*) consortium and of the AG Open Science working group of the Federal Museums. As a member of the *European Open Science Cloud* (EOSC), the NHM Vienna represents the collection sector. In a multiannual process, the NHM Vienna has also developed a database covering multiple collections and disciplines which is going to go online in 2024. The Natural History Museum Vienna is, after all, one of the world's most important museums given the size and diversity of its collections which include roughly 30 million objects.

## Evolution of the structural concept

From its inception, the Natural History Museum Vienna was designed to be a museum and a walk-in textbook on evolution. This is reflected by a thoroughly planned spatial concept which relates the items shown in the display cases to the ceiling decorations and provides spatial proximity between scientific and collection-related activities and the corresponding infrastructure, such as the collections and libraries. In the more than 130 years since its inauguration, the Museum has seen some major changes: the ethnographic collection was transferred to the Weltmuseum, for instance, and the rooms are now used for special exhibitions and lectures; a storey has been added to the roof and a four-storey underground storage facility was built under Bellariastraße. A number of functional areas, such as the shop, the café or a modern hall for science communication had not been part of the original designs, nor were rooms for CT scanner, freezers or DNA laboratories.

Thanks to the government's budget decision, it will be possible to open up the entrance area and make it barrier-free. Furthermore, the investment capital approved under Section 5 of the Museums Act will provide for vertical access facilities and a modernisation of the biological collections on display.

The following projects are planned for the coming years.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/forschung/projekte\\_uebergreifend](https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/forschung/projekte_uebergreifend)

### **Barrier-free entrance area**

2024 will be a year of detailed planning for opening up the entrance area and preparing the corresponding tenders. In general, the areas for visitors are to be expanded, including the shop, café and rooms for science communication. Two windows facing Maria-Theresien-Platz will be transformed into doors. Actual construction will take place between 2025 and 2028 – also in coordination with the Art History Museum, the twin museum opposite.

### **Redesign of the zoological exhibition halls**

The zoological exhibition halls are in for a redesign. Conceptual planning has already started for all halls, as the new design is part of an overarching concept in terms of focus themes. Hall 21 has been refurbished and is currently used for special exhibitions. The first exhibition granted a look behind the scenes with photographs by Stefan Oláh. The plans for 2024 foresee the completion of the renovation of the herpetology halls (Hall 27 and Hall 28) and the first bird hall (Hall 29); the structural renovation of the other bird halls (30 – 34) are scheduled for the end of 2024, with the fish halls and the first halls on the first floor set to follow from 2026.

At the same time, there will be a reorganisation of the amphibians and reptiles (frogs, snakes and others) as well as of the birds in line with current biosystematics and in selected groups. A new feature is added in the shape of entrance showcases in all halls, which should make it easier for visitors to find their way around and provide an overview of each group. These entrance showcases are also part of the **guidance concept**, which is already being developed and will be implemented in 2024.

### **Botany**

With its approx. 200,000 type specimens and a total of roughly 5.5 million herbarium specimens, the botanical collection is one of the most important collections of its kind in the world. Plants are a prerequisite for animal and human life on earth. They are a source of food and fibres and even fossil fuels are made from plants. The main exhibition will be located in the 2nd floor "Umgang" gallery, which also requires some reorganisation for other collections. Conceptual planning has begun, including the development of options for including botanical themes in other exhibition halls.

### **Evolution Salon**

For the first time in the history of the building, the front area of the 2nd floor "Umgang" gallery will be opened to visitors and serve as an "evolution salon" presenting fundamental mechanisms of evolution and, in particular, its genetic and historical foundations. The topics presented in detail there will often be linked to specific objects in the botanical and zoological exhibition halls as well as to the fossils and history of science. The content-related conceptual planning is scheduled for 2024.

### **Ice Age Hall for Children**

Hall 16 has already been renovated. The digital planetarium has been moved to the Zoom Children's Museum, and the caryatids and original decorations can be admired again. After serving as a provisional lecture hall in 2024, Hall 16 will serve as a new permanent exhibition hall as of 2025 and house the "Ice Age Hall for Children". Good progress has been made with the thematic concept, which has been designed by the scientific departments in cooperation with science communication and children's groups.

### **Vertical Access Development**

Plans for vertical access started in 2023 and will be implemented in 2024 in terms of a **lift system** in the inner courtyard. Further lifts and emergency stairwells will be included as part of the construction of the barrier-free entrance area.

### **Modern Multi-function Lecture Hall**

Before finding its permanent home in Hall 19, the lecture hall will be provisionally located in Hall 16 during 2024. A participatory process was used to identify the needs of the various stakeholder groups of the Museum (science communication, research, etc.) and incorporate them in the planning.

### **Collection development (collecting, preserving, documenting)**

The NHM Vienna boasts around 30 million objects, housed in eleven departments in over 50 collections. These objects are highly diverse in terms of curatorial and scientific requirements as well as digital cataloguing. Most new additions are provided by donations, some by acquisitions, third-party funded projects or the Museum's own research trips.

### **DIVINA Digital Collection Database**

The year 2021 saw a variety of workshops aimed at standardising the various approaches to the digital administration, indexing the collections and ensuring they are in line with international standards. In 2022, the database model was created and work started on developing the user interface for selected collections. In line with a suggestion by the curator for myriapods, the database will be named DIVINA (*Digital Information for the Vienna Natural History Museum*). In 2023, the user interface was adapted to include further collections and data migration was started. In 2024, the process of adapting user interfaces for further collections and data migration will be continued. At the same time, the database will be given additional features such as label printing and interfaces to the NHM website and other functions (e.g. finance and staff management). The complete migration of all data will take some more years; adaptations of the database and the entry of new data are ongoing processes.

### **OSCA – Open Scientific Collections Austria**

The Austrian network of DiSSCo<sup>2</sup> -Prepare gave rise to a country-wide consortium involving museums, universities and other institutions. This consortium seeks to open up Austria's collections in the fields of natural sciences and geo-sciences. 2024 will see the completion of the pilots on molluscs and species endemic to Austria. The completion of the portal is scheduled for 2024. Being part of the European research infrastructure for DiSSCo, the portal has the aim of obtaining permanent resources for the further development of the portal and corresponding services to heighten visibility and usability of the scientific collections.

## **Research**

The Museum's curators and researchers focus on collection-based research. In addition, the Museum aims to continue raising funds for research projects at national and international level.

The NHM Vienna participates in two ERC (*European Research Council*) Grant projects. Led by the Department of Anthropology, the Histogenes project explores migration in Europe during the period called Migration of Peoples. The RELICS (*Modelling Religiopolitics. The Imperium Christianum via its Commoners* (RELIC)) project under the lead of the Department of Prehistory is concerned with the importance of peripheral regions of the Holy Roman Empire during Christianisation. In the field of

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<sup>2</sup> DiSSCo - Distributed System of Scientific Collections – Prepare is a European project seeking to prepare a permanent European research infrastructure; being part of the consortium, the NHM has been providing information about current developments to other collection-based institutions in Austria about current developments for years.

geology, an important focus is on water systems and the karst regions. We should mention two projects funded by the FWF (Austrian Science Fund) on crustaceans and four biodiversity projects on identifying the genetic codes of animals, plants and fungi (1), on amphibians and reptiles found in Austria (2), on scarab beetles (3) and on *coregonus*, a genus of fish in the salmon family (4). For the first time in more than **20 years**, the Museum will be able to fill the position of head of the palaeobotanical collection. The zoological departments will continue to process the “Viennese types”, an important taxonomic basic research project for biologists all over the world. In addition, research will be continued in other regions of Europe, Austria and the biosystematic world, for instance on Australasian diving beetles.

### **Provenance research**

Continuing its provenance research regarding colonialism, the NHM will successively incorporate the findings in the development of its exhibitions.

A new project which also enjoys the support of the Ministry for Art, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖS) will provide context for the ethnographic paintings.

## **Special Exhibitions at the Natural History Museum Vienna**

### **Arctic. The Changing Polar World (until 22 Sept. 2024)**

An exhibition on the Arctic in cooperation with the APRI (Austrian Polar Research Institute) will be open until autumn 2024. In view of the current climate-change challenges, sharing information on the role of the Arctic and the Barents Sea in particular helps to understand the climate system and the current crises.

### **INSIDES. Behind the scenes of the NHM Vienna | Photographic insights by Stefan Oláh (until 1 April 2024)**

With his striking black-and-white photographs, Stefan Oláh provides impressive insights into the inner workings of the Museum, its collections and its technical infrastructure.

### **Our Soils (18 June 2024 until 3 March 2025)**

Soils provide the necessary basis for the growth of all plants, be it field crops, forests or meadows. The exhibition, which was created by the Senckenberg-Gesellschaft, showcases the different types of soil and the animals that inhabit them.

## **Special Exhibitions at the Narrenturm**

### **Carl and Theodor Henning – the development of moulage production in Vienna (27 May 2024 until April 2025)**

Moulages is the technical term used for anatomical wax models that present skin and joint diseases in a very naturalistic manner.

In 1892, Carl Henning began producing moulages for teaching medical students on a commission from the Medical School of the University of Vienna. The exhibition presents material analyses and historical sources to illustrate the history of the development of moulages. It also tells the story of the “k.k. Moulage Institut” and its transformation from a university institution tasked with the production of teaching materials to a private company offering a variety of services.

## Selected Events

### Poetic Breakfast

Once a month on a Sunday at 9.00, the Museum offers a poetic stroll through the exhibitions. Visitors are served not only lyrical and poetic texts written specifically for selected items on display, but also an exclusive Sunday breakfast.

A poetic and lyrical narration of the best stories behind the top 100 most intriguing items at the NHM.

Cost: € 45 incl. museum admission, guided tour and breakfast

Dates: [www.nhm.at/veranstaltungsprogramm](http://www.nhm.at/veranstaltungsprogramm)

### 25 January 2024: "Why Archives in the 21st Century?"

In addition to a general introduction and legal aspects, this lecture focuses on the history and tasks of the scientific archive at the NHM Vienna and the archives of the Zoological-Botanical Society in Austria.

### 4 to 6 April 2024: Citizen Science Conference and Citizen Science Day at the Museum

Under the patronage of the Austrian Federal President Dr. Alexander van der Bellen and with support from the Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Research, the NHM Vienna will organise the international Citizen Science Conference (ECSA - *European Citizen Science Association*), to be held from 4 to 6 April 2024. The venue for the scientific part of the conference is the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU) and the NHM will open its doors for a Citizen Science Day on 6 April 2024.

### 25 April 2024 "NHM Biennale Klimatalk. Gemeinsamer Diskurs für die Zukunft"

As part of the international *Klima Biennale Wien*, held from 5 April to 14 July 2024, the NHM Vienna is organising a discussion event bringing together different perspectives and disciplines. By offering space for networking, the NHM is aiming to empower the participants by harnessing an enriching dialogue between art, science and society.

### 9 to 11 May 2024 "Symposium Hallstatt Culture", venue: Hallstatt

This symposium on the current findings of Hallstatt research is jointly organised by Landeskultur GmbH Oberösterreich and the NHM Vienna. It will cover both underground research in the salt mine, carried out in close cooperation and support by Salinen Austria AG and Salzwelten GmbH, and the above-ground research activities in the burial grounds. The symposium is dedicated to the late Dr. Anton Kern, a leading expert at the NHM Vienna for many years.

### 16 to 18 May 2024 "Sacred places – sacrifices – feasts. Archaeological findings on Latène period cult practices"

A conference on Celtic sanctuaries jointly organised by the Federal Monuments Office and the NHM Vienna. The event focuses on the Celtic cult district at Perl-/Stadläckern am Frauenberg near Leibnitz/Styria, as well as on the findings of 30 years of interdisciplinary research on the sanctuaries on Sandberg in Roseldorf/Lower Austria.

### 24 May 2024 Long Night of Research and

### 5. October 2024 Long Night of Museums

Once again, the NHM Vienna and the Narrenturm will be part of the Long Night of Research and the Long Night of Museums.

### 24 September 2024, Fundraising Gala at the NHM Vienna

For the benefit of the redesign of the herpetological exhibition halls



### **Salon Moulage at the Narrenturm**

The Salon Moulage event at the Narrenturm was launched in 2022, inspired by the famous Viennese salons around 1900. The event features intellectual discussion panels on a variety of topics, where opinions can be formed (*moulage* being the French term for “shaping, moulding”). In these very challenging times, it is particularly important to “form” one’s own opinion. For this purpose, a safe space is offered three times a year for lively discussions, providing a private arena for exchanging a wide range of ideas and thoughts.

Anyone interested in these exclusive events and themes is requested to write to: [salon.moulage@nhm.at](mailto:salon.moulage@nhm.at)

## **Science Communication**

### **Educational Programmes**

In 2023, the NHM Vienna organised 1895 activities for nursery schools, schools and children’s groups, as well as 317 children’s birthday parties for families. 401 events were offered for groups of adults. Guided tours covered all thematic areas of permanent and special exhibitions. Deck 50, the science communication hall, was the venue of shows and workshops.

In the context of the public programme, 806 activities were conducted for children of all ages – from guided tours of the exhibition and shows on Deck 50 to biodiversity workshops at the NHM Children’s University. The 487 events for adult visitors included guided tours of the exhibitions, behind-the-scenes tours and lectures, as well as a “Night at the Museum” and workshops dedicated to the discovery of diversity.

### **Deck 50**

In autumn 2021, Deck 50 was opened on the top floor of the NHM Vienna for the innovative communication of scientific findings to a wide variety of groups, ranging from families and school classes to policy-makers, as well as providing room for thematic debates.

In addition to the permanent programme of science shows, formats such as “Meet a Scientist”, “Discover Diversity” and “NHM Children’s University: Club Diversity”, Deck 50’s innovation hub function will be further expanded with various cooperation partners.

### **Inclusion at the Museum: The Arctic and *andererseits***

#### **People with and without disabilities offer guided tours to people with and without disabilities for the exhibition “Arctic. The Changing Polar World”.**

The NHM Vienna, an institution that welcomes all people, is developing inclusive guided tours in cooperation with *andererseits*, the online magazine for disability and society. The aim is to provide a safe environment that encourages all people to enjoy the exhibitions and educational programmes as places of learning about nature, research, bio- and earth sciences, evolution and the cultural and biological development of humankind.

We are convinced that the engagement of our visitors, staff and scientists is indispensable for a museum and science venue. We therefore make a deliberate effort to include all people, especially (but not exclusively) those who have been historically underrepresented and discriminated against, in our activities at the NHM Vienna.

It is our mission to create a museum that is accessible to all. Apart from working on removing physical barriers in the entrance and exhibition area, we are, for the first time, proposing an inclusive educational programme for people with and without disabilities in the context of the exhibition “Arctic. The Changing Polar World”. We want all people to feel comfortable and welcome in the Museum and to be heard!

A pilot project is started on four days, but the Museum is planning to expand the programme if it meets with sufficient interest.

Wednesday, 24 January, 5.00 pm  
Wednesday, 14 February, 5.00 pm  
Wednesday, 13 March, 5.00 pm  
Wednesday, 17 April, 5.00 pm

Museum admission | + guided tour ticket € 5 Maximum number of participants: 20. Prior registration at [anmeldung@nhm-wien.ac.at](mailto:anmeldung@nhm-wien.ac.at) is required.

### **Salzzeit app**

In cooperation with the Scenomeia company and with the support of the Land of Upper Austria, the BMKÖS and the Capital of Culture 2024 Bad Ischl GmbH, the NHM Vienna is developing an app designed to inform about salt extraction, salt transport and trade as well as the impact, past, present and future, of these activities on the inhabitants of the Salzkammergut region. In addition, the app will inform about the various large and small museums of the Salzkammergut. The app will be presented in Bad Ischl in March 2024.



## Information

### Opening hours:

Thursday-Monday: 9 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday: closed

*last entrance half an hour before closing time*

### Exceptions:

Tue, 26 March 2024: open 9 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Tue, 29 October 2024: open 9 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Tue, 24 December 2024: open 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tue, 31 December 2024: open 9 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

## Tickets

Annual pass*	€ 44
Ticket combination NHM Vienna & Pathological-anatomical collection in the Narrenturm	€ 22
Adults	€ 18
Senior citizens (over 65), and others entitled to concessionary tickets **	€ 14
Disability discount with valid ID and registered accompanying person	€ 14
Groups (15 or more) per person	€ 14
Students, apprentices (over 19), soldiers and people doing alternative civilian service (25 and under)	€ 14
Children and adolescents (19 and under)	free
School groups	free
Owners of a <i>Kulturpass</i>	free
Accredited members of the press	free
BundesMuseenCard	€ 66

\* Valid for one year from date of purchase

\*\* Valid photo ID required

## About the Natural History Museum Vienna

Inaugurated in 1889, boasting roughly 30 million collection items and more than a million visitors in 2023, the Natural History Museum Vienna is one of the world's most important museums of its kind. Its earliest collections date back more than 250 years and visitors will find famous and unique items on display. Highlights of a tour of the 39 exhibition halls include the 29,500 years old Venus of Willdenforf, Steller's sea cow, gigantic dinosaur skeletons and the world's largest and oldest collection of meteorites, as well as the anthropological and prehistoric permanent exhibition. Deck 50 provides inspiring insights in the world of science. Dedicated to science communication, Deck 50 is an experimental space that invites visitors to explore connections between research and current social issues in a playful way.

In the NHM's research departments, around 60 researchers are conducting topical basic research in various fields of the earth, bio- and human sciences. This makes the Museum an important hub of expertise on public issues and also one of Austria's largest non-university research institutions.

The NHM Vienna is certified with the *Österreichisches Umweltzeichen* ecolabel.



The NHM Vienna is involved in the project "17x17 – 17 Museums, 17 SDGs: UN Sustainable Development Goals". An initiative by ICOM Austria in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, culture, Civil Service and Sport.

## Press photos (1/2)



Natural History Museum Vienna

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Dr. Katrin Vohland and Mag. Markus Roboch

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Planet Earth

© NHM Wien, C. Rittmannsperger



Arctic. The Changing Polar World

© NHM Wien, A. Schumacher

## Pressebilder (2/2)



INSIDES. Behind the scenes of the NHM Vienna.  
Photographic insights by Stefan Oláh

© Courtesy of the artist, Stefan Oláh



Our Soils. The Earth's thin skin

© Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung



Moulage (Narrenturm)

© NHM Wien