

# GUIDED TOURS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN (6-10 YEARS) AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM VIENNA

The NHM Vienna offers guided tours of the exhibitions and talks on various different topics. All guided tours are adapted to the age and knowledge level of the participants.

## Highlights

A guided tour of the museum's most eye-catching and impressive exhibits gives visitors an insight into the world of collecting and researching.

## Mammal quiz

Carnivore or herbivore? Forest or meadow? Fur or shell? Antlers or horns? This is an entertaining tour of the characteristics and lifestyles of known and lesser known mammals, giving the children the chance to guess the answers with the help of colourful symbol cards.

## Sharks

Wherever they appear, sharks cause panic – or admiration. This tour gives participants the chance to look into the mouth of a Great White Shark and learn how a “revolver jaw” works. Sharks have incredible senses far more powerful than even modern-day vertebrates: their sense of touch enables them to recognize differences in pressure from a long way away, while their electric sensitivity means they can pick up electromagnetic waves. Shark skin feels rough to the touch, but in fact it glides through the water with ease. Indeed, sharks are not the murderous killing machines they are often portrayed as. Many more sharks are killed by humans than humans by sharks.

## Insects

More than half of all known animal species are insects. Scientists have already identified around one million different types of insects, but they believe that there are many more millions that have not yet been found and described. Insects include parasites, disease vectors, flower pollinators, and honey makers. In the NHM Vienna's Insect Hall participants will learn much about this group of animals: appearance, camouflage techniques, warning alerts, habitats, and group behavior.

## On the snail trail (bookable from April until September)

The mollusk exhibition shows the huge range of snails and their relatives that inhabit our planet – land-dwelling species, ocean-dwellers which breathe through gills as well as freshwater species which have lungs. In some regions snail shells were used as a form of payment, while whelks provided valuable crimson dye. School pupils learn to identify poisonous, edible, and unpopular snails, both with and without shells, and have the chance to hold a living land snail.

## A day in the forest

The forest never sleeps! The children experience a day in the forest in time-lapse speed and learn what happens in 24 hours. Which animals wake up, how does the forest sound at different times of the day and where do the animals hide when they sleep? The tour among the forest animals is accompanied by hands-on items and different sounds.

**Life in the rainforest**

Rainforests are some of the most diverse yet also endangered habitats in the world. This guided tour through the NHM Vienna focuses on both aspects. Groups can choose if they prefer to take a closer look at a specific geographical area or if they would like to receive an overview of rainforests around the world.

**A journey through the sea**

Like plankton, the children float with the currents, from the deeps of the ocean to the coast, from icy cold waters to warm seas. On their way they encounter many tiny, huge, poisonous, dazzling and mysterious sea creatures and get an impression of the marine habitat in all its diversity. And they get to take photos of the animals back to school as a travel souvenir.

**Records in the animal kingdom**

School pupils learn about animals with exceptional abilities, from the speed of the leopard and the deadly poison of the sea snake to the incredible jumping power of the flea and the deep-sea diving of the sperm whale. The guided tour underlines that the “records” set by humans often pale into insignificance when compared with what animals are capable of.

**Seeing, smelling, hearing, ....**

How do we perceive the world? How do animals experience their environment? Using simple experiments, the children explore their own senses and encounter animals with amazing sensory skills.

**Eggs galore**

Whether hard or soft, thick shelled or limp, round or angled – there’s one thing that all eggs have in common: a baby animal is growing inside. At the museum, children can compare eggs and discover which animal they belong to. A hen’s egg is subjected to close inspection inside and out. At the subsequent walk through the zoological collection we can visit spiders, crocodiles, frogs and many other egg-laying animals.

March 4, 2020 – April 20, 2020

**Animals in winter**

Searching for clues: tracks, food traces and droppings take the children from animal to animal. In the group, they discuss the strategies different animals have to survive the winter.

November 20, 2019 – March 2, 2020

**Goat, dog and cow – pets, domestic animals and their ancestors**

What pets and domestic animals do we know? The tour starts with a colourful parade of pets and domestic animals and leads on to their ancestors and relatives. The children explore similarities and differences between wild and domestic animals from all over the world. They can guess and discuss how humans use domestic animals with the help of symbol cards showing things like milk, leather, butter and other products.

**Fairytale animals**

This guided tour gives children the chance to learn about bears, wolves, frogs, hares, hedgehogs, and many other fairytale animals. They will find out how these animals live and see whether or not the way they are portrayed in fairytales matches real life. This guided tour is particularly recommended for children in years 1 and 2 of primary school.

**Earth – Space: journey there and back (suitable for school years 3 and 4)**

Come with us on a journey through our solar system to the Moon, Mars, and beyond! Highlights include

following a meteorite on its journey from space to Earth. How will it land on our planet? Where can we find meteorites on Earth? What do meteorites tell us about space?

### **Dinosaurs and their contemporaries**

This tour through the geological and paleontological galleries introduces children to the different kinds of saurian: Pterosaurs, dinosaurs, ichthyosaurs, and plesiosaurs. Highlights include skeletons as well as fossilized eggs, excrement, and footprints; participants can also touch a real fossilized dinosaur bone. Using these objects and many other fossils it is possible to recreate life on Earth during the time of the dinosaurs.

### **Monkeying around**

How much monkey do we have in us? The school children learn how our closest relatives – gorillas, orangutans, and chimpanzees – live.

### **Mammoths and mammoth hunters**

Which Ice Age animals did humans meet? How did hunters and gatherers live in the Stone Age? The NHM Vienna is home to real skeletons of cave lions, cave bears, and giant deer as well as a reconstruction of a hut made from mammoth bones and a life-size mammoth with a baby.

### **Stone Age**

Our journey begins in the time of the Paleolithic hunters and gatherers, where the school children can see what the find site of the Venus of Willendorf would have looked like 30,000 years ago. The tour then continues into the Neolithic and passes through Austria's first farming village before ending in the Copper Age, when Ötzi the Iceman was alive. Animations and colorful illustrations show how people would have lived at the time.

#### **Opening times of the NHM Vienna**

Thursday to Monday from 9:00 until 18:30, Wednesday until 21:00, closed Tuesdays

#### **Duration**

50 minutes

#### **Group size**

Max. 29 children per group

#### **Price**

Admission Free up to the age of 19 years; 2 accompanying adults free for every 17 pupils

Guided tour € 4.00 per school pupil

€ 60.00 flat rate for groups of fewer than 15 school pupils

#### **Booking**

It is recommended to book three weeks in advance.

01/52177/335 (Monday 14:00 until 17:00, Wednesday to Friday 9:00 until 12:00)

[https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/en/exhibitions/school\\_\\_kindergarten/appointment\\_request](https://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/en/exhibitions/school__kindergarten/appointment_request)