









100 objects invite you

to discover thousands more



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# 1 ICELAND SPAR

There are very few specimens of Iceland spar of this size and quality, even from the world's best known source, the Helgustadir mine in Iceland.

# 2 SMOKY QUARTZ



With a circumference of 112 centimeters and weighing 115 kilograms, this crystal is one of the largest ever recovered from the cavern at Switzerland's Tiefen Glacier.

### **3** FLOWERS OF IRON



The "flowers of iron" from Erzberg in Styria are known the world over for their beauty and quality. Even there, specimens of this size have been found only very seldom.

# 4 EPIDOTE



Epidote crystals are rare and there are only a few occurrences of them world-wide. It was for this reason that Knappenwand in Salzburg attained world fame as a mineral deposit

# 5 ROCK SALT



Rock salt crystals can attain a remarkable size. However, specimens weighing a thousand kilograms with cubes up to 30 centimeters long are an absolute rarity.

# 6 IMPERIAL TURQUOISE TALISMAN



This instantly recognizable piece worked n magnificent turquoise was a gift to Emperor Franz Joseph I from a Persian turquoise cutter.

# 7 HABACH VALLEY EMERALD



This emerald crystal was a gift from Salzburg to the imperial and royal mineralogical cabinet in the year 1874. It is one of the largest and finest specimens from the world-famous deposit in the Habach Valley.

# 8 PRECIOUS OPAL



At 594 grams, this precious opal is not only the largest from a European deposit, but also the most valuable gemstone in the Vienna collection.

The largest diamond in the Vienna collec-

tion is remarkable not only for its 82.5

carats, but also for its purity and perfect

# **9** OCTAHEDRAL DIAMOND



octahedral shape.

# **10** PLATINUM NUGGET



At 6.2 kilograms, the NHM's platinum nugget is the world's third heaviest. Only two nuggets in the Russian State Treasury in Moscow weigh more.

# **11** EMERALD HAND SPECIMEN

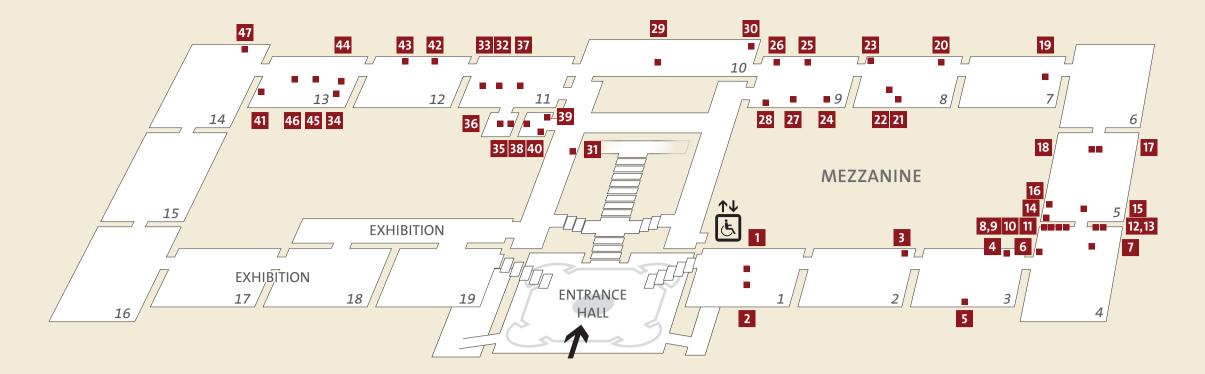


Exquisite emeralds from Colombia were artistically cemented together using cobbler's wax to make a hand specimen a rare treasure from the early days of collecting.

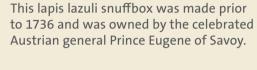
# 12 GEMSTONE BOUQUET



The baroque miniature gemstone collection – a gift from Maria Theresa to her husband – is unique both for the value of the stones and for their artistic workmanship.







# 14 ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK AND ORRERY



The astronomical clock and orrery is a miracle of precision engineering, which combines ultimate craftsmanship with the state of knowledge in astronomy in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

# **15** KNYAHINYA STONY METEORITE



For a long time Knyahinya was the largest known stony meteorite. Fundamental research has been carried out on it regarding the radiation ages of meteorites.

# **16 NAKHLA MARTIAN METEORITE**



Of about 71,000 known meteorites, only 350 come from the planet Mars. Nakhla is one of these extremely rare Martian meteorites.

# **17 HRASCHINA IRON METEORITE**



Hraschina near Zagreb is one of the first scientifically investigated meteorites, and is the foundation of the Vienna meteorite collection, the oldest in the world.

#### **18** CABIN CREEK IRON METEORITE



Cabin Creek is regarded as one of the most beautiful meteorites in the world, and is shown in many books on meteorites as the ideal example of an oriented meteorite

#### **19** PRIMEVAL RINGED WORM



The deposits at Burgess Pass give a unique picture of the ancient animal world. Primeval beings – including soft tissue – have been preserved here.

# **20** EXTINCT SEED PLANTS



The fossil plants of Lunz are unique in their wealth, their diversity, and their outstanding state of preservation.

#### **21** PRIMITIVE BIRD



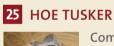
The primitive bird Confuciusornis is one of the paleontological treasures. In this male, the long decorative feathers are unusually well preserved.















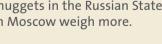


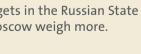












# 22 PRIMITIVE SNAKE



One of the most primitive and oldest snakes in the world. This specimen was used for the first scientific description of the species Pachyophis woodwardi in 1923 (holotype).

# **23** GIANT AMMONITE



Parapuzosia seppenradensis is the largest species of ammonite ever to live. At just under a meter diameter, this specimen is the second largest ammonite in Austria.

# 24 GROUND BEETLE IN BALTIC AMBER



Insects captured in amber, a fossil resin, are some of the most attractive examples of primeval life.

alluvial deposits

Complete skeletons of large mammals, such as this *Deinotherium* (hoe tusker), are very rare and valuable. Mostly, only individual fossil bones are discovered in

# **26** FOSSIL OYSTER REEF



The largest oysters and mussels ever to live formed a mighty reef in today's Korneuburg Basin. This was also the origin of the world's largest fossil pearl.

### 27 SCORPION FISH



St. Margarethen is a world-class lagerstätte, but most of the scientific sensations from this site seem commonplace. The scorpion fish is an exception.

# 28 PRIMEVAL DWARF HORSES



The primeval horses from Messel are among the most important fossils, both because of their outstanding state of preservation and because of their key role in equine evolution.

# 29 DIPLODOCUS



The Diplodocus skeleton is the biggest exhibit at NHM Vienna, and was one of the first almost complete skeletons of the large dinosaurs to be discovered.

# **30** GIANT MARINE TURTLE

The world's largest, most complete, and heaviest turtle skeleton.

# **31** CAVE BEAR WITH CUB



The only complete skeleton of a young cave bear.

# 32 SKULL FROM FRANZHAUSEN BURIAL SITE



The skull, which is some 4,000 years old, is a unique example of the Bronze Age as a time of fundamental economic and social change.

# 33 ORNAMENTAL DAGGER FROM MAIERSDORF



The bronze ornamental dagger is one of the finest examples of Bronze Age smithing, and its fantastical scratch decoration is particularly appealing.

# **34** HORSE TACK FROM STILLFRIED



The bronze horse tack from Stillfried is some of the oldest metal tack found in Austria, and indicates links with the Eurasian steppes.

# **35** STATUETTE FROM GALGENBERG



For long, the 36,000-year-old statuette also known as "Fanny" was regarded as the world's oldest human figure. Only in 2008 a human figure was discovered in a cave in southern Germany which is probably even older.

The perfection of the representation and

harmonious style make the 29,500-year-old

figure of the "Venus of Willendorf" one of

the most expressive works of art from the

# **36 VENUS OF WILLENDORF**



# **37** SEATED IDOL OF PAZARDZHIK

Paleolithic Age.



Although the exact circumstances of the discovery are unknown, the clay figure from Pazardzhik is the most important seated female figure from the New Stone Age in Bulgaria, due to its design.

# **38** STOLLHOF HOARD



One of the most important finds from the New Stone Age was made in the region of the Hohe Wand mountains, where Austria's oldest gold and copper artefacts were buried.

# **39** GOLDEN AXE OF TUFALAU



The pure gold crested axe was not a practical piece but a very rare status symbol, evidence of a high social position and great economic power.

#### 40 LANGOBARDIAN GOLD BROOCH



The brooch in silver, gilded and decorated with almandines is a unique find for Austria. The form and design are essential for dating.

# 41 LANGOBARDIAN DECORATIVE HORSE TACK



The splended horse tack comes from a woman's grave. It is regarded as a masterpiece of the Langobardian goldsmiths, and is unique in the settled region along the Danube.

#### 42 LEATHER BAG FROM HALLSTATT



Organic materials, such as this leather bag, could only be preserved for over 3,000 years in the prehistoric mine at Hallstatt - an archeological sensation.

#### 43 **BRONZE SCOOP**



These two unusual bronze ladles with cow-calf handles have been found only at Hallstatt so far. These masterpieces of Iron Age ironwork were used as scoops

#### 44 **BIRD CHARIOT**



The bird chariot is an outstanding piece of art by prehistoric bronze casters and a rare cult object with high symbolic content from an Iliterate culture.

# 45 FIGURE OF A BULL



The 2,500-year-old bull in bronze is one of the most artistically sophisticated and valuable figures from the Hallstatt culture.

#### 46 **KUFFARN SITULA**



The Kuffarn situla, the northernmost find of this type, is striking for its detailed bands of images from the life of the Celts 2,400 years ago.

# 47 MLADEČ SKULL



As one of the oldest definitively dated *Homo sapiens* finds in Europe, the Mladeč skull is at the focus of current scientific controversy about human history.

> Visit our 3D-Museum: www.nhm.at/en/museum\_online/3d





# natural history museum vienna

The 100 culturally and historically most valuable

sional storytelling path they show how the Earth

and life have changed and adapted over billions

objects in 38 exhibition halls convey a unique impression of our planet. Along a three-dimen-

# **NHM TOP 100**

Nature's cornucopia: from space to the core of the Earth, from the depths of the oceans to the lords of the air – 4.6 billion years of Earth's history in a single museum

The Natural History Museum Vienna is one of the largest, oldest, and most noteworthy natural history museums in the world. Ever since it was founded, it has been of fundamental importance for our understanding of the world and our society.

# **48** JAPANESE GIANT SPIDER CRAB



These two unusually large giant spider crabs were a gift from Japanese Emperor Meiji to Emperor Franz Joseph I.

# 49 PROTOZOA MODELS



Protozoa are generally so small that they can hardly be displayed in the original. The lifelike plastic models with glass spines were made at the NHM Vienna 2007.

# 50 GLASS MODEL OF A FRIED EGG JELLYFISH



With unique artistry, Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka created thousands of glass models in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The few remaining examples are now priceless rarities.

# 51 WAX MODELS OF PORK TAPEWORMS



hese models are considered some of the earliest three-dimensional and scientifically correct representations of the dangerous parasite in all stages of development.

# **52** DR. SÖMMERRING'S FISH TAPEWORM



The fish tapeworm comes from a stool ample from the German doctor Samuel homas von Sömmerring and is one of the oldest complete tapeworm specimens the world.

# 53 BLACK SMOKER CHIMNEY



The completely dark environment of black and white smokers in the deep sea, which were discovered only in 1978 by the deep sea submergence vehicle Alvin, has turned out to be a diverse ecosystem

# 54 GIANT CLAM



Giant clams are the largest clams in the world and are now strictly protected. The shells together with a soft body replica can be seen only at the NHM Vienna.

# 55 DOM PEDRO CADDY



The Dom Pedro caddy was a gift from the crown prince of Brazil to his father-in-law, Emperor Franz I, but it also symbolizes a piece of research history.

# 56 ERNST GRUNDMANN LADYBIRD COLLECTION



Meticulously kept private collections such as Ernst Grundmann's special collection of ladybirds (ladybugs) are invaluable to research at natural history museums.

# 57 COMMON HOUSEFLY



of years.

Unlike the often huge plastic models that are common today, this detailed historic replica of a common housefly, magnified 65 times, is one of a kind.

# 58 DIORAMA OF A WETLANDS POND



Many museums have habitat representations. Adaptation to historic surroundings and the visual linking of diorama and showcase, however, are unique.

# 59 WHIP SPIDER



This whip spider is the first and only species of whip spider that has been found in Europe. It was discovered by a researcher at the NHM Vienna in 1959.

# 60 SEA SPIDER WITH YOUNG



Sea spiders are some of the most enigmatic of animals; their classification is unclear to this day. In particular males with young can be seen in very few museums.

# 61 VIENNESE BASILISK



Since the "king of venomous animals" could not be omitted from any cabinet of curiosities but did not occur in nature, a likeness had to be made. The Viennese basilisk is a transformed ray.

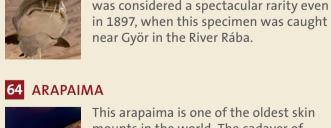
# 62 GREAT WHITE SHARK



In about 1900, when this specimen was mounted – an exceptional example of early taxidermy - there were only very few true-to-life illustrations of sharks.

A European sturgeon three meters long

# 63 BELUGA STURGEON



This arapaima is one of the oldest skin mounts in the world. The cadaver of the rare freshwater predatory fish was superbly mounted by 19<sup>th</sup> century standards.

# 65 OCEAN SUNFISH



Ocean sunfish are very rare. At nearly two meters long, this specimen is one of the largest that has ever been mounted.





### Unscathed oarfish are seldom caught and therefore rarely seen in museums. At six meters long, this specimen was extremely difficult to mount.

# 67 COELACANTH



Their appearance and their status as "living fossils" make coelacanths much sought-after exhibition items. The NHM Vienna has two specimens – one skeleton and one complete

# 68 TUATARA



Tuataras are now found only on about 30 small islands off the coast of New Zealand. The *Sphenodon* collection at the NHM Vienna is one of the largest collections outside New Zealand.

# 69 ABINGDON ISLAND TORTOISE



The one-hundred-year old historic specimen of the extinct Abingdon Island tortoise is irreplaceable and correspondingly valuable on two counts.

# **70** GANGES GHARIAL PAIR



At four and five meters long, these two mounted specimens are some of the longest Ganges gharials on display in a museum.

# 71 KOMODO DRAGON



Very few museums have mounted specimens of the largest lizards in the world. The NHM Vienna also has a komodo dragon preserved in alcohol – an unusual method of preserving such a large animal.

# 72 CUVIER'S SMOOTHFRONTED CAIMAN



The caiman, which was sent to Vienna from Brazil in about 1830, is an example of early taxidermy, but also represents an exciting piece of zoological research history.

# 73 ARRAU TURTLE

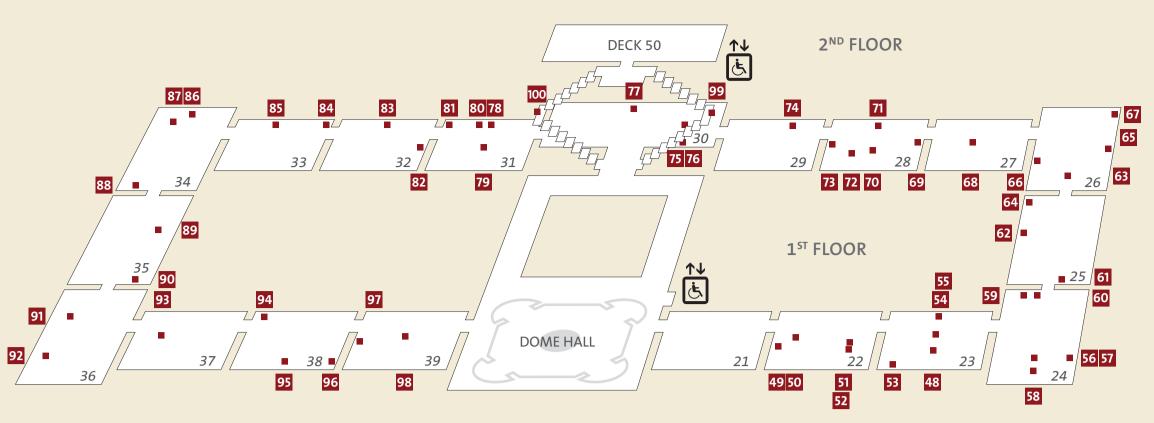


As a mounted specimen, this Arrau turtle is an example of early taxidermy. Furthermore, such large specimens are rarely found today.

# 74 SEA EAGLE PAIR



This sea eagle pair was bagged by Crown Prince Rudolf on 22 January 1889 in the Danube wetlands near Vienna – just nine days before he committed suicide in Mayerling.





# 76 SHOEBILL



# 77 MOA



# 78 HOATZIN





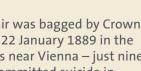












# 75 GALAPAGOS CORMORANT

The only flightless cormorant is extremely rare both in the wild and in museum collections. When and how this specimen came to the NHM Vienna is undocumented.

The rare African bird with the unusual beak can be seen in various zoos, but in very few museums. The exhibit at the NHM Vienna is very true to life.

These skeletons of two extinct moa species were found in a cave in New Zealand by Ferdinand von Hochstetter during the Novara expedition and brought to Vienna in 1859.

The diorama illustrates one behavior typical of hoatzins: chicks use their wing claws to climb back into the nest after dropping into the water as a means of escape.

Its magnificent plumage makes the Great Argus a popular but challenging aviary bird. This cock from Schönbrunn Zoo was particularly dramatically mounted.

The NHM Vienna owns not only the most complete dodo skeleton anywhere in the world, but has also had a state-of-the-art reconstruction of this extinct species since 2011

# 81 KAKAPO GROUP

The NHM Vienna is one of the few museums in the world that not only possesses an entire group of the very rare kakapo, but has them displayed in a historic diorama.

# 82 WHITE-FACED OWL

This mounted specimen of a white-faced owl - an extinct owl species found only in New Zealand – is a true rarity. When and how it came to the NHM Vienna is not known.

# 83 RHINOCEROS HORNBILL

Attention to detail was a high priority in the restoration of this historic diorama in 2010. Even the hornbill's prey, a small flying dragor is an original.

# **84 THYLACINE**



There are very few mounted specimens of this extinct species in the world today. The example at the NHM Vienna is one of the most beautiful.

# **85** BROWN-THROATED SLOTH



When naturalist Johann Natterer found this sloth during the Austrian expedition to Brazil and sent it to Vienna in 1830, it was a true rarity in Europe.

# **86 SOUTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL**



Very few museums own a specimen this large, and even fewer have one over a hundred years old. The skin, skull, and teeth are original; the skeleton is in storage.

# 87 STELLER'S SEA COW



Of the 27 extant skeletons of this extinct species worldwide, none is complete. The almost complete specimen at the NHM Vienna is the only one with pelvic bones

# 88 OKAPIS



When these two okapis went on display at the NHM Vienna in 1910, the discovery of the species was still quite sensational in Europe. To this day, okapis are rarely seen at museums.

This Javan rhinoceros is not only the oldest

mounted animal at the NHM Vienna, it is

also one of the oldest and best preserved

# **89 JAVAN RHINOCEROS**



historic mounted specimens in the world.

# 90 PRZEWALSKI'S HORSE



This Przewalski's horse is the pure-blooded offspring of a population from the Altai Mountains and a direct descendent of the 54 animals used to save the subspecies.

# 91 WISENT



Unlike most of the exhibits at the NHM Vienna, the wisent group is shown in surroundings that seem realistic. The adult animals come from a sanctuary in Bialowieza (Poland).

# 92 TAKIN



The NHM Vienna is the only museum in Central Europe to have a takin skin mount on display. It was bought in London in 1908, and was considered exceptional even then.

# 93 SIBERIAN MUSK DEER



These two musk deer were killed in 1912 in Siberia. The species is still being hunted and poached for the male's musk gland and is greatly threatened.

# **BINTURONGS**



These historic mounts of the rare Asian viverrid hold enormous appeal because of the facial expression and stance, which make the binturongs seem almost alive.

# **95** SNOW LEOPARD



Snow leopards are the most threatened big cats on Earth. Thanks to a breeding program, they can now frequently be seen at zoos, but are seldom displayed at museums.

# 96 GIANT PANDA



Although giant pandas are doubtlessly one of the best known animal species, there are at most only 3,000 of them in the world today. They are rarely shown in museum collections.

# 97 MADAGASCAN AYE-AYE



Aye-ayes, primates in the lemur group threatened by extinction, are seldom displayed in natural history museums, although they are remarkable in several ways.

#### 98 GELADA



This very rare primate arrived at the NHM Vienna in 1854 thanks to the efforts of naturalist Theodor von Heuglin. Unusually for the time, it was mounted in a realistic

# 99 BLUE SWIMMING CRAB



This graphite pencil sketch is the best illustration of the color code developed by Ferdinand Bauer that ensured trueto-life colors in scientific watercolor paintings.

# **100 EARLY ADMISSION TICKET**



The oldest admission ticket to a natural history museum was elaborately designed and individually issued. The predecessor institution to the NHM Vienna was housed at the Imperial Palace.

Visit our 3D-Museum: www.nhm.at/en/museum\_online/3d





