

PRESSTEXT



Gutenberg-Museum: A treasury of books, printing, and script history

Experience the history of writing, books and printing "live": In the center of Mainz's old town, opposite the cathedral, stands one of the oldest printing museums in the world. The World Museum of Letterpress Printing is dedicated to the "Man of the Millennium" Johannes Gutenberg and his inventions, whose global impact up to the present day is also made clear in special exhibitions. The renowned special museum was founded in 1900 by citizens of Mainz on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Johannes Gutenberg's birth to honour the inventor of printing with movable types and to exhibit, preserve and communicate his technical and artistic inventions. Around 160,000 visitors from all over the world take up this offer every year. Medieval manuscripts, incunabula and historic prints, graphic reproductions, typesetting machines and printing presses are presented in an exhibition area of around 3,000 square metres, through to modern book culture, children's books, miniature books, luxury papers and binding art.

Among the museum's greatest treasures are two original Gutenberg Bibles from the mid-15th century. The Gutenberg workshop with its replica Gutenberg press is also one of the main attractions. Here, almost hourly demonstrations are given of how printing was done in Gutenberg's day. A modern film, which can be screened in seven languages, introduces visitors to Gutenberg's life and work. With the audio guide in several languages, visitors can go on various tours through the museum and learn about its highlights in German, English, French and Korean. Five "extra tours" lead through the following departments: Book before Gutenberg, Early Printing after Gutenberg, Paper and Bookbinding, East Asia, Islamic Book Culture.

The Print Shop (Druckladen)

The Gutenberg Museum in Mainz offers numerous educational museum formats and events for young and old, a wide variety of workshops and special guided tours through permanent exhibitions as well as changing special exhibitions. In open workshop areas,

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individual visitors, small groups, or school classes can learn about the history of writing, printing, and printing techniques, as well as diverse aspects of cultural and art history. The print shop and the workshops in the museum offer a unique opportunity for visitors to become active themselves, to learn a variety of book-related craft techniques under expert guidance, or to find their own forms and ways of artistic expression. Special events regularly supplement the museum's basic educational programme: for example, family days are held on weekends with events specially tailored to young families. Senior citizens are addressed just as much as curious beginners and advanced students who want to gain their own experience of the content taught at the Gutenberg Museum in weekend and vacation workshops on paper making, book printing and book binding, and graphic techniques.

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