THE CRADLE OF THE MUSEUM
KUNSTKAMMER VIENNA
REOPENING
The countdown has begun

From 2013 come and visit the world’s most important Kunstkammer, newly installed and reopened to the public after being closed for a decade. The state-of-the-art installation and presentation of the unique Kunstkammer Vienna is one of Austria’s foremost cultural projects and of seminal importance for Vienna’s imperial heritage.

The Kunstkammer

The Kunstkammer is the foremost collection of its kind in the world. During the late Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Baroque encyclopedic polymath collections were assembled. Emperors and princes collected all things rare, curious and unusual, and virtuoso artists created magnificent objets d’art.

The Kunstkammer comprises over 2,200 objects. Among its highlights are examples of fabulous goldsmith work such as the celebrated Saliera by Benvenuto Cellini, outstanding sculptures such as the Krumau Madonna, magnificent bronze statuettes, delicate and bizarre ivories and precious stone vessels as well as valuable clocks, elaborate automatons, strange scientific instruments, sumptuous gameboards and much, much more.

The Saliera by Benvenuto Cellini (1540-1543)

The Saliera, the precious gold salt cellar by the Italian master Benvenuto Cellini, is probably the most famous artwork in the Kunstkammer. Not only celebrated as the object of a spectacular heist in 2003 and an equally spectacular return in 2006, this unique artwork is the only extant goldsmith work by Benvenuto Cellini. Executed for King Francis I of France during the artist’s sojourn in Paris 1540-1543, the salt cellar was presented to Archduke Ferdinand II (of Tyrol) by King Charles IX when the former stood in for the latter at his wedding to Archduchess Elisabeth in 1570. This exceptionally precious object – Cellini describes how he hammered it from gold foil – is also an allegory of the Earth.
Come and enjoy a wealth of goldsmith works, delicate bronzes, statues carved from ivory or wood, and exotic objects like ostrich eggs or the horn of a rhinoceros.

Sumptuous vessels and centrepieces made of semi-precious stones, rock crystal, porcelain or glass, as well as intricate clocks, celestial globes and automatons will charm and entertain you.
In addition, the Kunstkammer houses the world's largest collection of tapestries and of glyptic art.
Kunstkammer artifacts as international ambassadors

Until the reopening of the Kunstkammer, some of its unique artworks are on show in various much-reported international exhibitions, making them important ambassadors of the newly-installed collection.

National Gallery (Washington)

Kunsthaus Zürich
»Wintermärchen« 10.2. - 29.4.2012

Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen (Mannheim)

Frick Collection (New York)

The Kunstkammer website www.kkhm.at

Visitors can check out the latest developments of the Kunstkammer campaign at www.kkhm.at. This special website tells you everything you want to know about the campaign, about ways to support it, and about the ongoing building work in the Kunstkammer. Until the reopening of the Kunstkammer information about current and new campaigns to raise donations, events and news about the collection are published regularly on the website and in the Kunstkammer newsletter.
Booking Information

Reserve your tickets for the Kunstkammer in advance. From winter 2012 go to www.khm.at for online reservations.

Entrance tickets Kunsthistorisches Museum for groups (from reopening of the Kunstkammer): €10,- p.p. for groups of 10 or over.

Please let us know if you need more information on guided tours or special packages for travel agents. If you prefer cashless payment with vouchers we offer a voucher agreement with monthly billing (payable within 14 days); please ask for the relevant contract.

Numbers, Dates and facts about the Kunstkammer

Oldest object:
a Carolingian ivory tablet depicting the Ascension of Christ, c. AD 875

Youngest object:
the ceiling painting depicting patrons from the House of Habsburg by Julius Victor Berger, 1891

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gallery space</th>
<th>2.717 m²</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of objects on show</td>
<td>2,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of showcases</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total length of heating system</td>
<td>4 Kilometer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total length of electrical wires</td>
<td>40 Kilometer</td>
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</tbody>
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From 2013 come and see the twenty newly-installed galleries covering over 2,700 m², and visit a world of beauty and wit, curiosities and wonder! Three major themes are presented, starting from the development of the Habsburgs’ courtly chambers of art in the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. The installation focuses on the most important Habsburg archdukes and emperors of the sixteenth and seventeenth century.
Information & reservation
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Daily except Mon 10 am – 6 pm
Thu 10 am – 9 pm