

General press release
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Museum zu Allerheiligen - Rendezvous with Art and Culture

The Museum zu Allerheiligen is located in the middle of the picturesque historic center of Schaffhausen. In the former Benedictine monastery of Allerheiligen, alongside artifacts from the monastery's past, the museum brings together archaeology and cultural history, a significant collection of antiquities, an art collection with works by Cranach, Hodler, Vallotton, Otto Dix, and Adolf Dietrich, as well as a natural history collection. The museum cafe—with the idyllic Pfalzhof open in the summer—is the perfect place for a relaxing break. The cathedral, cloister, and monastery garden are open to the public during the day.

Like the monastery that was once located here, the museum is a place of knowledge, culture, and discovery. The name Museum zu Allerheiligen alludes to the universality of the medieval monastery and attests to the diversity of the branches of knowledge represented here. More than 280,000 items in the collection form the basis for a multifaceted permanent exhibition program. The exhibits range from the Paleolithic period to the Middle Ages, the industrial revolution, and the recent past, also encompassing art and natural history. With modern exhibition techniques such as models, interactive computer and listening stations, as well as film documents, art and cultural history are presented in a vivid and engaging manner.

From the Stone Age to the 20th Century

In the chronologically organized exhibition, visitors can discover fascinating Stone Age art and a multi-image slideshow on the famous prehistoric Kesslerloch site near Schaffhausen. Valuable finds from Roman times, such as the precious glass hunting bowl, show the traces that the Romans left behind in the region. The medieval artworks are also impressive, with numerous pieces from the heyday of the Allerheiligen monastery in the 12th century. The history of the monastery is evident throughout the museum. The loggia, for instance, which is now part of the museum, connected the abbot's residence with the guest wing of the monastery in the 13th century. Numerous allegorical scenes are still preserved in the arcades of the loggia. Another highlight is the famous Onyx of Schaffhausen, an antique/medieval gem that is considered the most precious secular piece of jewelry from the 13th century in Europe.

A large part of the exhibition is dedicated to the history of the city and economy of Schaffhausen. Industrial pioneers such as Heinrich Moser and Friedrich Peyer im Hof made the economic boom possible. With the construction of the famous Moser Dam and its hydroelectric power plant, which provided cheap energy, entrepreneurs and industrial firms in the metal processing and mechanical engineering sector settled in the area and made Schaffhausen a leading industrial center of Switzerland. The Georg Fischer steel plant, the IWC watch factory, the Schweizerische Industrie-Gesellschaft (SIG), and the aluminum industry with Alusuisse earned a global reputation and brought Schaffhausen an economic prosperity that continued late into the last century.

Internationally Renowned Antiquities Collection

With the Ebnöther Collection, the Museum zu Allerheiligen also has one of the most important collections of antiquities in Europe. The collection spans a variety of regions, with artworks from the Mediterranean and the Middle East as well as pre-Columbian cultures from Mexico to Peru. The new exhibition includes clay cuneiform tablets from Mesopotamia, Mayan glyphs from ancient Mexico, and knotted quipus from the Inca Empire in South America. Among the highlights are the silver relics from the grave of the prematurely deceased Uratian Prince Inušpua in what is now Turkey.

Impressive Art Collection

The permanent exhibition of the art collection presents paintings and sculptures from the 15th century to the present. These include works from renowned artists such as Tobias Stimmer, Lucas Cranach the Elder, Alexander Trippel, as well as Ferdinand Hodler and Otto Dix.

The new exhibition of artworks presents highlights from the rich treasures of the museum's collections. It begins with depictions of the life of Mary as well as Renaissance portraits, including paintings by Tobias Stimmer, Barthel Beham, and Lucas Cranach. There is an impressive overview of the 18th century with sculptures by Alexander Trippel, a native of Schaffhausen. Cuno Amiet, Ferdinand Hodler, and Félix Vallotton represent international modernism in Switzerland around and after 1900. The group of landscapes by Otto Dix from the period of "inner emigration" from 1933 to 1945 form another focal point of modernism in the art collection. Contemporary art from the Schaffhausen region is featured in a presentation spanning two generations and two rooms.

Natural History Collection

In the natural history exhibition, rocks and fossils recount the geological past of the Schaffhausen region. Traveling back in the history of the earth, the exhibition also covers the origin of the Rhine Falls, a major tourist attraction in Schaffhausen. Other focuses include the diverse lives of humans, animals, and plants around Schaffhausen.

In addition to the permanent collections, the Museum zu Allerheiligen also presents several temporary exhibitions every year in the different thematic areas and offers a varied program of events with guided tours and lectures. A wide-ranging program is also offered for schools and teachers. The museum grounds also include the impressive cathedral, the idyllic monastery garden, and the largest cloister open to the public in Switzerland, which offer a unique atmosphere for a visit to the museum.

Museum Stemmler

The Museum zu Allerheiligen also oversees the small Museum Stemmler at Sporrengasse 7 in Schaffhausen. The cabinet of natural history in the former residence of the naturalist and animal rights activist Carl Stemmler is a museum within the museum. It brings together an abundance of zoological specimens and is a fascinating panopticon of the animal world.

Museum zu Allerheiligen Schaffhausen
Klosterstrasse 16
CH-8200 Schaffhausen

Opening hours:

Tue–Sun, 11am–5pm, closed Mondays

Every first Saturday of the month:

free admission to the collections and smaller temporary exhibitions

www.allerheiligen.ch

Museum Stemmler
Sporrengasse 7
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Opening hours: Sun 11am–5pm

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