

Neanderthal Museum Interactive Museum at the Legendary Find Site

Today one of the most popular and modern museums in Europe stands where, more than 160 years ago, the eponymous Neanderthal was discovered. In 1856 in the Düssel River valley, framed by steep walls at that time, workers quarrying limestone discovered bones which were identified by the Wuppertal naturalist Johann Fuhlrott as the skeletal remains of an Ice Age human - Neanderthals had arrived.

Today Neanderthals are world-famous. Everyone knows them, we have all formed an impression of them. Reason enough for a museum to be dedicated to them and the history of humanity, a museum which each year attracts 160,000 visitors to the Neander Valley, near Düsseldorf.

Visitors undertake a journey through time, exploring human history - from our beginnings in Africa more than 4 million years ago, up to the present. Especially popular are the life-like recreations of our ancestors, like the Neanderthal man "Mr. N", the Australopithecus woman "Lucy", or the Neanderthal girl "Kina". These spectacular hominins, created by the Dutch sculptors Adrie and Alfons Kennis, populate the permanent exhibition and invite visitors to feel part of the extensive human family.

A diverse range of installations and interactive stations, excavation and laboratory models, as well as research boxes to look through, make a visit to the museum a rich and varied experience. Included in the price of admission is a fascinating audio-guide in German or English, with a children's version also available. Audio-guides and further information are also part of the Neanderthal app – we recommend downloading it before your visit.

The architects Günter Zamp Kelp, Julius Krauss, and Arno Brandhuber designed a special building 20 years ago, which has won many prizes in the time since. The blue glass façade makes an almost unreal impression in the protected valley landscape. A visit to the museum can be combined with a visit to the find site, the sculpture trail, and the nearby Ice Age animal park.

Those who would like to learn Stone Age crafts, or just try them out, can take part in a workshop or course at the museum's Stone Age Workshop. Especially popular are the activity programmes, which include archery and geocaching, for company outings or birthdays. Those who would like to experience the exhibitions in a more entertaining fashion should consider a guided discovery tour. Whether "With a Mop in the Stone Age" or "The Caretaker's Stone Age", we guarantee you will laugh and learn (these tours available only in German).

Neanderthal Museum, open Tuesdays-Sundays, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, closed on Mondays. Further information available at www.neanderthal.de

The museum can be reached by car via the A3, Hilden/Hochdahl exit, or the A46, Haan-West exit. You can also get here on the Regiobahn train S28 or on light-rail service S8 operated by VRR. Both rail services run close to the museum and offer convenient alternatives to driving.

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