

City Museum Erlangen

Martin-Luther-Platz 9
91054 Erlangen

Opening hours:

Tues/Weds: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thurs: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Fri: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sat/Sun: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Entrance: €3, discounted €2

Tours: €1

Museum educational programme: €2

Contact:

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www.erlangen.de/stadtmuseum

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STADTMUSEUM
ERLANGEN



City Museum Erlangen





The Museum

The city museum is located in the heart of the Old Town and is housed in the former town hall together with a neighbouring town house. Its lovely courtyard is a popular venue for museum celebrations and open-air cultural events while providing good prospects for the museum's expansion.



The permanent exhibition documents the city's history through to the 20th century, a key focus being the town's Baroque era with its Huguenot handcrafts and manufacturing, the residency and the university. Other topics include the upheavals of the Industrial Age and the transformation of the town community since the time of the German Empire and within the context of German history. The tour ends with Erlangen's development as a "Siemens town" following the end of the Second World War.

One of the museum's strengths lies in its ambitious special exhibitions which include topics of local interest as well as those relating to cultural and contemporary history, the history of medicine and to art history. It is the very breadth of this spectrum, also made possible by partners such as the university, which meets with such a positive response from the public.

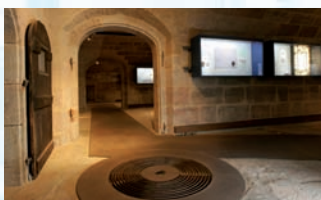




**View of the museum building
from the courtyard**



**Former entrance to the town
hall basement, an air raid
shelter in 1940/45**



**A view of the museum
basement with the well from
the previous building**



Prehistory



The Old Town



The New Town



Industrialisation



City History and Politics

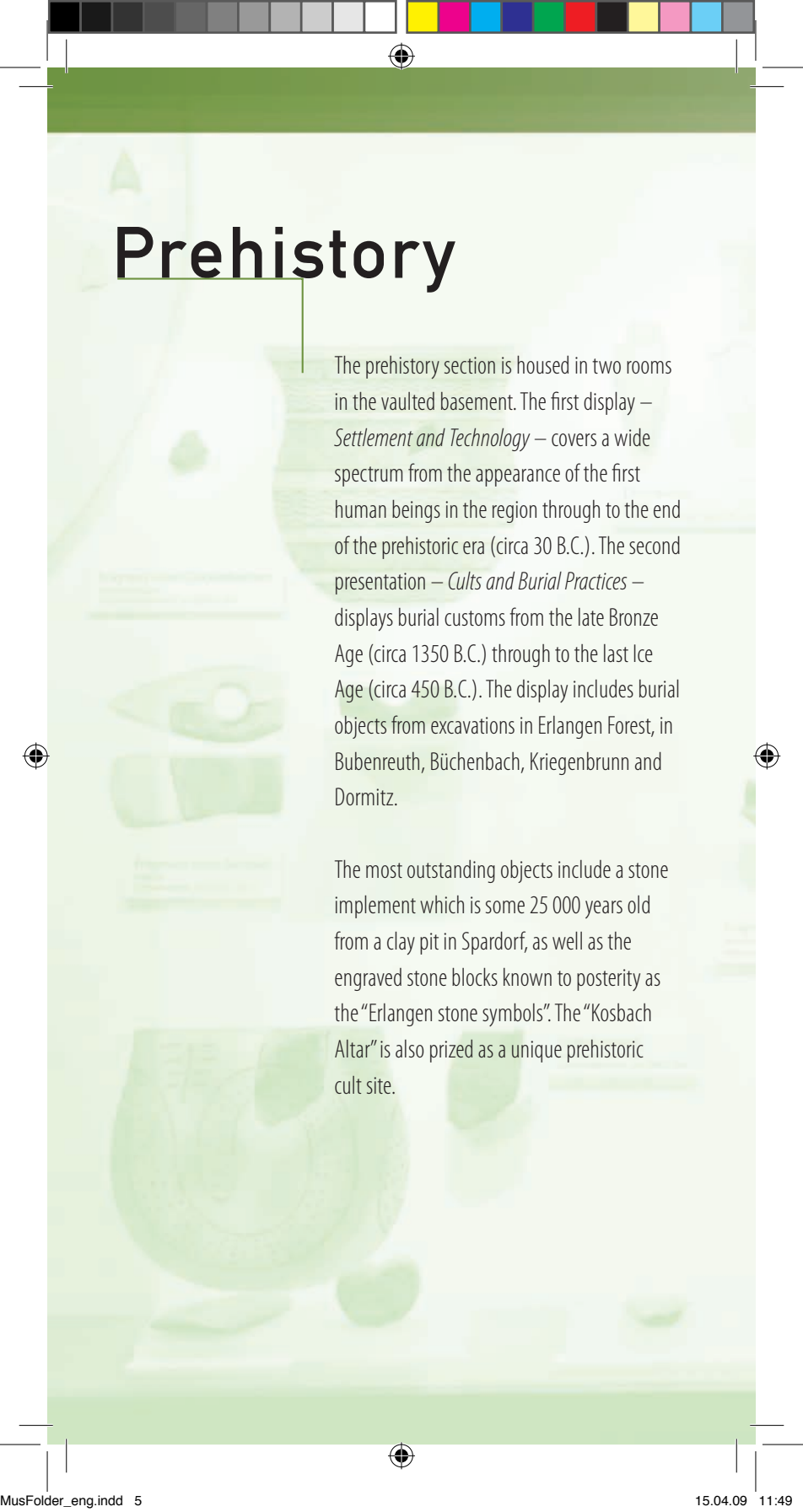


Museum Education





Prehistory



The prehistory section is housed in two rooms in the vaulted basement. The first display – *Settlement and Technology* – covers a wide spectrum from the appearance of the first human beings in the region through to the end of the prehistoric era (circa 30 B.C.). The second presentation – *Cults and Burial Practices* – displays burial customs from the late Bronze Age (circa 1350 B.C.) through to the last Ice Age (circa 450 B.C.). The display includes burial objects from excavations in Erlangen Forest, in Bubenreuth, Büchenbach, Kriegenbrunn and Dormitz.

The most outstanding objects include a stone implement which is some 25 000 years old from a clay pit in Spardorf, as well as the engraved stone blocks known to posterity as the “Erlangen stone symbols”. The “Kosbach Altar” is also prized as a unique prehistoric cult site.



The room housing the
Cults and Burial Practices
display – also a memorial
to the town's unopposed
surrender on 16 April 1945



Showcase with original
and reconstructed
Stone Age implements
(stone axe, harvesting
blade, grinding stones,
spindle, clay pot)





Tiered container,
Urnfield Period





The Old Town

On display in the third section of the vaulted basement are the key stages in the town's history from the first documented mention of Erlangen as "villa Erlangon" in 1002 and its development into a town in the 14th century through to the Old Town fire of 1706. The tower, the mint, the school house and the public baths, for example, provide visitors with an insight into life in what was a late medieval agricultural town.



An important relic of the Old Town is the adjoining, skew-angled vault dating back to the building which preceded the old town hall. The plans of the surrounding cellars on display here provide an indication of the irregular layout of the streets and buildings prior to the fire of 1706. The extent to which the reconstruction carried out in the Baroque style of the New Town changed the town's original layout is also very clear.



Showcase dedicated to the fire in the Old Town on 14.8.1706



Showcase documenting the reconstruction, with the Homann town map, 1721, and carpenter's compass, 18th century



The executioner's sword belonging to the Gassenmeyer family of executioners, late 17th century



The New Town

The settlement of French religious refugees in 1686 was a major turning point in the history of Erlangen. A new town was planned and built to the south of the Old Town which, following the difficulties of the early years, developed into an important trade and commercial centre.

The handcrafts and manufacturing introduced by the Huguenots make up the focus of this part of the exhibition and visitors can expect a comprehensive display of hosiery and glove making, one which is of more than just regional significance. This is supplemented by pictures and objects relating to the town's planning and to the margrave's residence, as well as to the founding of the university in 1743 and the reformed community.

The portrait of Sophie Caroline, Markgräfin of Erlangen, by the court painter from Hannover, Johann Georg Ziesenis, is a particular highlight.



A marksman's target donated by the French Reformed tanner Etienne Barthé, 1775



Hosiery loom, Erlangen, 1716. Hosiery was the main commercial activity in Erlangen's New Town.



Tapestry entitled "Wild Boar Hunt" made by the Chazaux atelier, 18th century (detail)



Industrialisation

Erlangen made a late entry into the Industrial Age and the majority of its export industries were outdated at the start of the 19th century. Railway construction provided a new impetus and also promoted an upturn for the breweries. The first large textile and electrical concerns had been established by 1900 (Baumwollspinnerei Erlangen, Reiniger, Gebbert & Schall) with the town establishing a modern infrastructure at around the same time with electricity works, water works and sanitation, all of which brought about changes to everyday life.

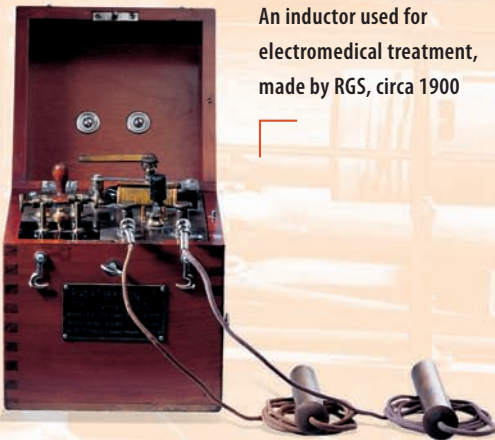
The technical achievements and social problems of the age are demonstrated by the examples of the Bücking ivory comb factory, the Kränzlein brush factory, the Zucker leather and carton factory, as well as by the Erba spinning company and by RGS. Special exhibits comprising pencil sharpeners by Möbius and measuring instruments by Gossen, for example, provide an insight into the range of goods produced by Erlangen companies.



**Machines from the Zucker
fitter's shop, circa 1900**



**The Reiniger, Gebbert and
Schall electrotechnical factory,
1914 – the origins of Siemens
Medical Technology**





**An inductor used for
electromedical treatment,
made by RGS, circa 1900**






City History and Pol

The university town of Erlangen rapidly developed into an industrial and a garrison town during the decade prior to and following the founding of the German Empire in 1871. It was the propertied classes and the intelligentsia, as well as the affiliated officer class, which set the tone, with a self-assured working class, soon well-organised along trade union lines, propagating the class struggle.



Erlangen remained a social democrat stronghold during the Weimar Republic, its established working class culture managing to maintain a strong presence until its destruction by the Nazis. The failings of the academic intelligentsia during the "Third Reich" were evidenced by the alignment of the university and the involvement of doctors in Nazi crimes, amongst other things. The small Jewish community was completely annihilated.

The relocation of the Siemens-Schuckertwerke AG headquarters from Berlin to the still intact Erlangen in 1945 was the first step towards the town's development into a prosperous working class town which achieved city status in 1974.



Politics



A "Reichsbanner" flag from the suburb of Erlangen-Bruck, 1924/26 – a testimony to contemporary history.



Everyday life in Erlangen during the National Socialist era.



Siemens has a determining influence in modern-day Erlangen.



Museum Education

The museum's educational programme provides a graphic and playful way of introducing the younger members of the public to history and art. The programme focuses primarily on the items in the museum, also accompanied by reconstructions, models and modern media. Learning based on example is its objective with specialist guidance enabling focussed watching, sampling and appreciation of contexts through exchanges with others of the same age.



Erlangen boasts a great many schools and so the museum's educational programme is especially aimed at school classes and project days for all age groups. A series of slight variations ensures its appeal for kindergartens, nursery schools and youth groups, as well as for children's birthday, school holiday or leisure activities. The range of topics includes special exhibitions and everyday life attractions. Individual groups are arranged for special exhibitions.

Group tours for adults are available upon request while the established tradition of activity and family days is popular with a diverse public.



Participatory activities and qualified instruction make the museum a place of learning.



The museum's education programme also means "history you can touch".



A "wash day" in the museum is not something to be forgotten in a hurry.