



Highlight Tour

— The entire
museum in
90 minutes

MUSEUMS
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Historical Museum Frankfurt —

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Historisches
Museum
Frankfurt

— Welcome to the Historical Museum Frankfurt!

This tour takes you around the entire museum in about 90 minutes. It presents all the highlights: the well-known, glorious and unusual exhibits.

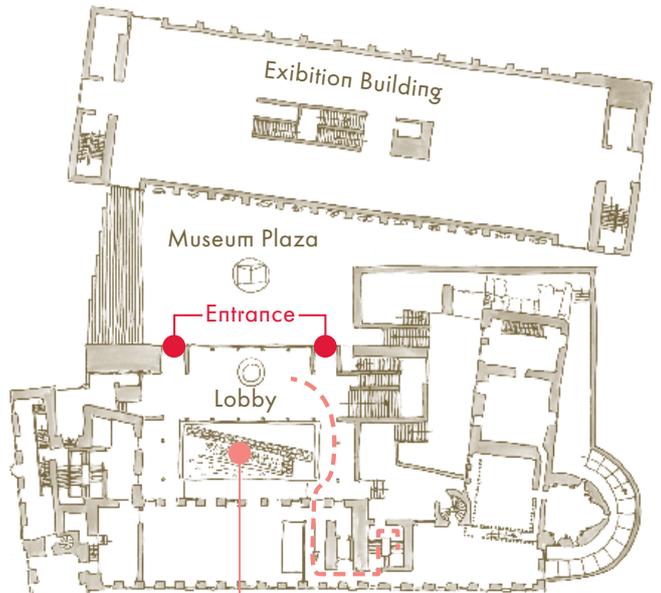
After visiting the “Staufer Harbour” you descend into the “Staufer Age”, where you get an idea of life in the Medieval city. Via the impressive wooden spiral staircase dating from 1842 you reach the four floors that are home to the Collectors’ Museum. Here you will encounter the oldest collections owned by the city or its citizens. Then climb up to the “Toll Tower”, over 500 years old and now open to the public for the first time, where the exhibition gives you an impression of life and commerce in the city. Proceed to the new exhibition building, where you experience city history in “Frankfurt Once?” with its



five themed galleries. On the top floor a magnificent view awaits you. There, the exhibition “Frankfurt Now!” focuses on life in the city today. The tour ends with a gaze at the huge “Snow Globe” with eight city models that characterize Frankfurt.

The Museum

Level 1



Toll Tower

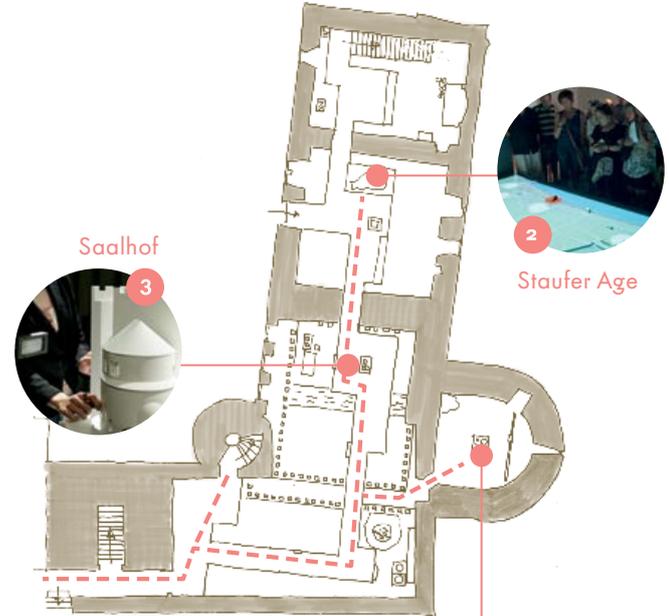


1 Staufer Harbour

Staufer Age
Collectors' Museum

Staufer Age

Level 0



Saalhof



3



2

Staufer Age



Imperial insignia 4



—¹ Staufer Harbour

The highlight at the heart of the museum quarter, a section of the Medieval harbour, was unearthed in 2012 four meters down during construction work for the new building. The Frankfurt river harbour was a hub of long-distance trade as early as the Staufer Age (approx. 1150–1250). Some 20 meters of the southern enclosing wall of the royal palace “Saalhof” have survived, with a berth in front of it. The trees used for the beams were felled between 1303 and 1314. During the city extension in 1333 under emperor Louis the Bavarian, the Staufer harbour was filled in, the walls torn down, and the harbour shifted further toward the riverside. Thanks to the fill-in, the harbour is very well preserved, better than any other from this period!

**Head to Level 0,
into the Staufer Age, through to the third room ▷**

—² Staufer Age

The model of the Staufer city shows how the city looked during the Staufer Age 800 years ago: At that time, the first civic community arose, walls were built around the city, and it received an Imperial Privilege to hold trade fairs. Today, little or nothing has survived of that early city: Other than the “Stauferbau” at the Saalhof itself, there is only a piece of the “Staufen Wall”, parts of the Leonhards- and Nikolai churches and the foundation walls of a tower marked out beneath the pavement on the Römerberg. How the city looked around 1260 is supplemented in two directions in the projection screened: the development around Frankfurt’s cathedral hill in early times and as a Roman military base, and how the Old Town developed through to the present.



Back to the previous room ▷

3 Saalhof

The Saalhof was built around 1200 and was considered the seat of the Staufer rulers in Frankfurt. They ruled the Roman-German kingdom between 1138 and 1254. Among them was Friedrich Barbarossa, who was elected king in Frankfurt in 1152.

The Saalhof's location is typical for castles of city rulers for that time. It was positioned exactly at the south-western corner of the old town fortifications close to the river. The model of the Saalhof shows what Frankfurt's oldest building that is still standing looked like back then and how it was used as a royal castle.



Turn left into
the chapel
basement ▸



4 Imperial insignia

The insignia of the German kings and “Roman” emperors, the symbols of their rulership, were kept at different places in the Empire until the 15th century. Alongside Aachen and Nuremberg, from the 12th century onwards Frankfurt was a bit like the Holy Roman Empire's capital city: 31 kings and emperors were elected, and 10 of them crowned here. The copies made in 1913 were part of a large-scale “program of remembrance” of Frankfurt's lineage as a seat of imperial elections and coronations.

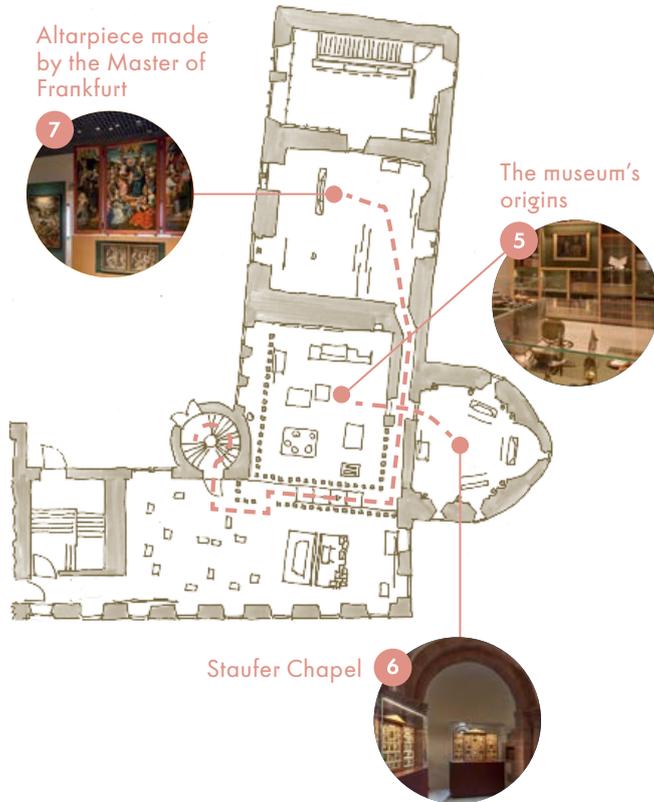
Continue via the historical spiral staircase to Level 1 ▸

Collectors' Museum

Level 1



5 The museum's origins



Under librarian Johann Martin Waldschmidt (1650–1706), the City Library evolved into Frankfurt's first public museum. In addition to the books, it was also bequeathed rare and precious objects and curios, above all from the burghers' private collections. Frankfurt's fortifications engineer Johann Wilhelm Dilich (1600–1657) gifted it a large number of survey instruments. The brother Langren's Celestial Globe of 1594 and other globes were presumably acquired for the library at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The latter also collected archaeological finds from Heddernheim and the Town Forest as well as medals, diplomatic gifts to the Council and musical instruments from the Municipal Chapel that were no longer being used. In the 19th century, the Historical Museum became home to the City Library's collections.

Continue opposite into the chapel ▷

—⁶ Staufer Chapel

The building itself forms an important exhibit on the Staufer Age. The semi-circular Staufer Chapel was built just after 1200 at the east wall of the residential and fortified tower, erected but a little earlier. Access was through the surviving corridor from the hall in the palace building. The chapel now houses the “Morgens-tern’sche Miniaturkabinett”. The three painters and restorers worked back in the days of architect Rudolf Burnitz, who rediscovered the Saalhof and its chapel around 1841 and converted them.

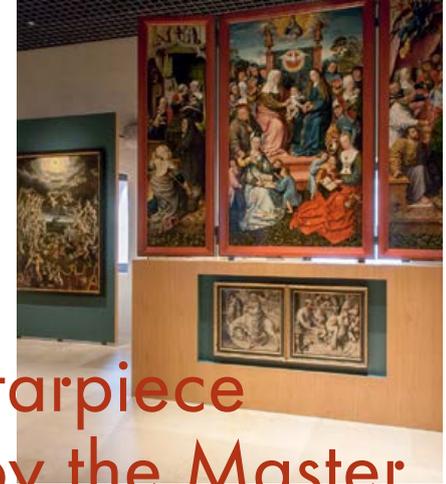


Continue on to the narrow historical corridor ►

—⁷ Altarpiece made by the Master of Frankfurt

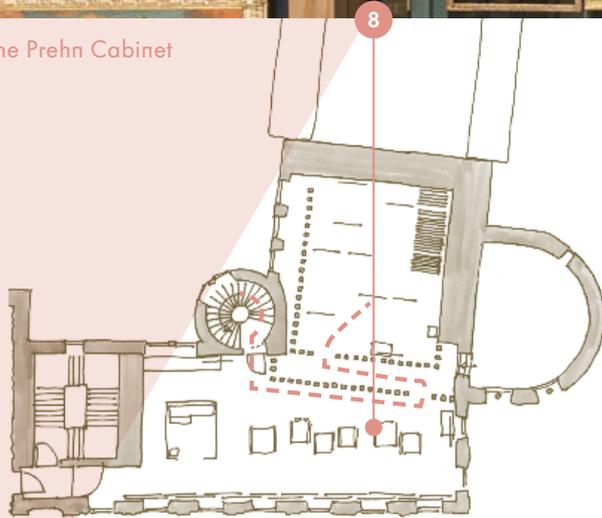
An outstanding piece from the paintings collection of the only Frankfurt Prince, Prince Primate and Grand Duke Carl Theodor von Dalberg (ruled from 1806–1813): the Late Medieval altarpiece by the Master of Frankfurt (1504). It was commissioned from the Antwerp-based painter for the Dominican Church. The closed altarpiece had four panels painted in grisaille, each with two saints; once opened, the central section shows the Holy Family, and the two wings the birth and death of the Virgin Mary.

Back to the historical spiral staircase and up to Level 3 ►





The Prehn Cabinet



Collectors' Museum Level 3

8 The Prehn Cabinet

Johann Valentin Prehn (1749–1821) was a confectioner and thus belonged to the craftsmen. However, the quality of his work must have gained him such a reputation and brought him such income that he was able to afford a large art collection. In 32 wooden fold-out boxes he assembled over 800 small-sized paintings. Presumably, the collection was quite incomparable in Germany! Prehn had a special preference for landscapes, religious history paintings, portraits and genre pieces.

Take the spiral staircase in Level 1 back to the lobby.
Follow the signs to the Toll Tower ▷

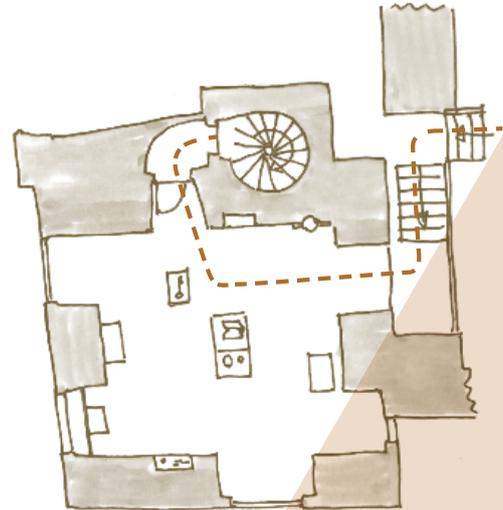
9 Toll Tower

Level 1



The four-story Toll Tower was erected in the mid-15th century along with Fahrtoor (gate). In front of it lay the harbour, where all trading goods came in or went out by river. In the “Toll Office”, the customs office on the first floor of the tower, the duties for imports and exports of goods had to be paid, and for over 500 years the tower was closed to the public. As part of modernizing the old

museum buildings the clock was also restored – to give the Toll Tower back what was from the 19th century onwards its characteristic look with the two large black clock faces. The historical clockwork in the tower consists of a pendulum clockwork made in 1937.



Back to the lobby, take the stairs down to Level 0 and from there to “Frankfurt Once?”, proceed on Level 1 to the gallery “Portraits of the City” (dark red) ▷

Frankfurt Once?

Level 1



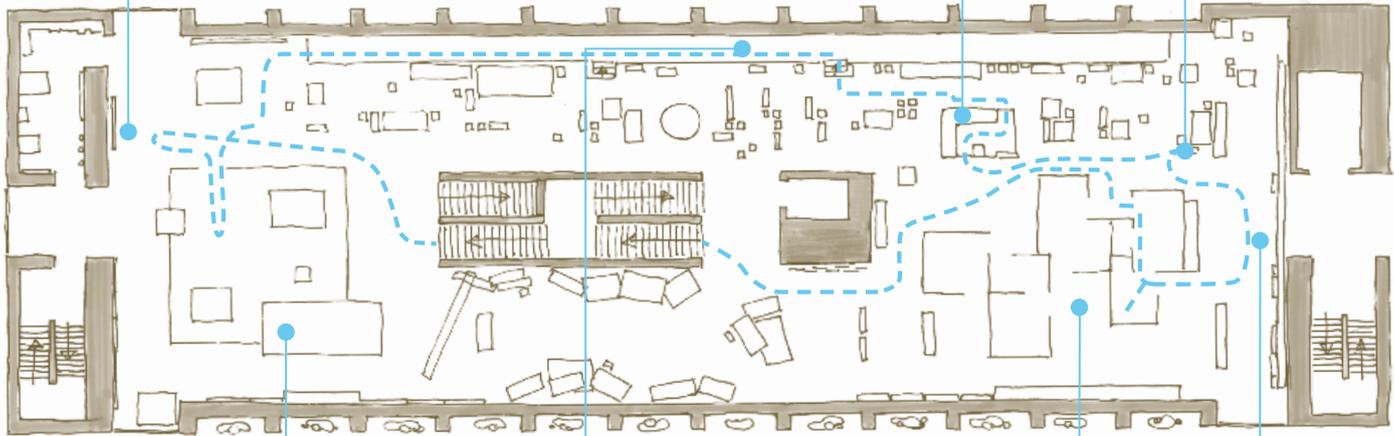
10 Main-Panorama



13 Frankfurt Kitchen



14 Radio



11 Impressive model of the Old Town



12 Portraits of the City



17 Margot Frank und Walter Schreiber



16



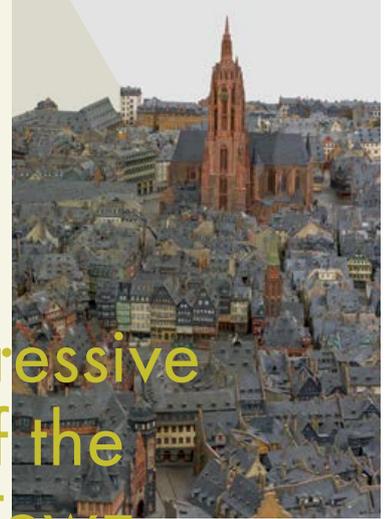
15 Faces



—¹⁰ Main-Panorama

For Frankfurt merchants, the Main River was the most important link to the world. The river harbour at Fahrtor was the central turnaround and trading hub for goods and articles of all kinds. Wine was the most important article traded. The large panorama painting of the Main River by Friedrich Wilhelm Hirt shows the throbbing Frankfurt harbour at Fahrtor between the Toll Tower and St. Leonhard's church. The painting was made in 1757 and shows a cross section of the contemporary Frankfurt population – from fishermen or crane operators to distinguished burghers and aristocrats. At the center of the picture: a winching crane for loading and unloading goods, as well as wheelbarrows, carts, beasts of burden, ships, barges and goods are depicted.

Continue to the section “Old Town Drama” (dark red) ▷



—¹¹ Impressive model of the Old Town

The well-known model of the Old Town was purpose-made from 1925 to 1961 by brothers Hermann and Robert Treuner for the museum. It shows the historical buildings and roads in 1927 and thus documents Frankfurt's Old Town that was almost completely destroyed in the World War II bombing raids. The state of the alleys and facades, a social and hygienic disaster, are not to be seen in the cleanly painted structures of the model. In this regard, the model was always an artificial construct: It presented a reduced, harmonious and romantic image of the Old Town, one that presumably never existed.

Continue along the walkway to the gallery
“100 x Frankfurt” (violet) ▷

12 Portraits of the City



In the 19th century, large panorama paintings with views of cities, landscapes or historical events were presented at fairgrounds. One of the Frankfurt panoramas shows a view of the city of Frankfurt with many scenes from everyday life and technical innovations, such as the newly-built railway bridge over the Main or

the paddle steamer on the new river channel. The second panorama shows the bustling Zeil, Frankfurt's main shopping street, with its great variety of shops and their luxury stores.

Continue to exhibit no. 68 >



—¹³ Frankfurt Kitchen

From 1924 onwards, new housing estates were being built in Frankfurt with a total of more than 10,000 apartments. Even the kitchens for all the flats were planned – and were fitted. Viennese architect Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky designed the Frankfurt Kitchen. It is considered the prototype of a modern fitted kitchen. Everything has been streamlined to fit a very small footprint and arranged such that the housework and cooking can be done in a minimal space and with very little effort.

Continue to exhibit no. 89 ▷

—¹⁴ Radio

Giuseppe Bruno arrived in Frankfurt in 1962 as a 16-year-old guest worker. Using this radio he learned German. Radio language courses were broadcast specially for “guest workers”. In 2005, Giuseppe Bruno published his memoirs in German in book form. He was a political activist and among other things was elected a member of Frankfurt’s local foreigner’s representation committee.



Continue to the end of the gallery,
into the “Faces” section (blue-grey) ▷

15 Faces

A wall of portraits with paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and photographs present portraits of over 100 Frankfurt citizens from all social classes from the late 15th to the 20th century. The composition of portraits is often changed, as some of the drawings, prints and

photographs need to be regularly replaced as they are sensitive to light. The media stations provide information on the biographies of the persons depicted and their networks as well as on the artists in question and the various portrait genres.

Continue to the “Biographies” cabinets (dark blue) ▷



16+17 Margot Frank and Walter Schreiber

The cabinets present individual Frankfurt citizens. Here, you will often encounter new persons whom you can familiarize yourself with.

Both were born in 1926 in Frankfurt and died young in 1945. For both, life was strongly influenced by the Third Reich, albeit in completely different ways. Walter Schreiber experienced an education based on constant drill in line with Nazi ideals. An impressive collection of toys and documents attest to this. Margot, the older sister of the famous Anne Frank, was a scion of a long-standing family of Frankfurt Jews. After fleeing and hiding in Amsterdam, she died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Both biographies can be followed in the two cabinets opposite each other.

Continue via central stairwell or by elevator to Level 2 to the "Stories about Money" (silver) ▷



Frankfurt Once?

Level 2



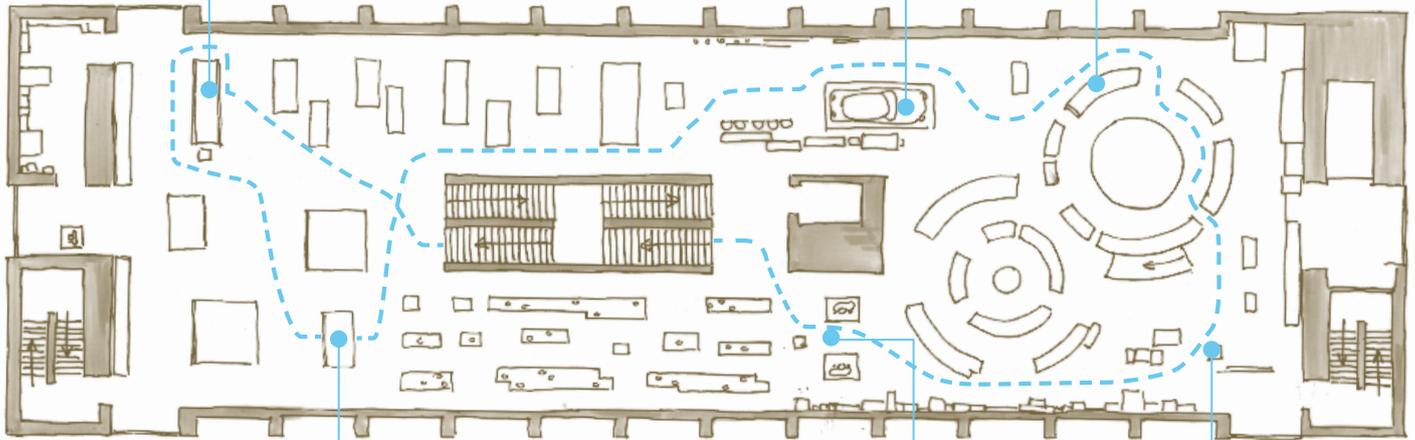
18 Heller altarpiece



20 Adler automobile



21 Ox head



19 The Gontard doll's house



23 Charlemagne and Friedrich Ebert



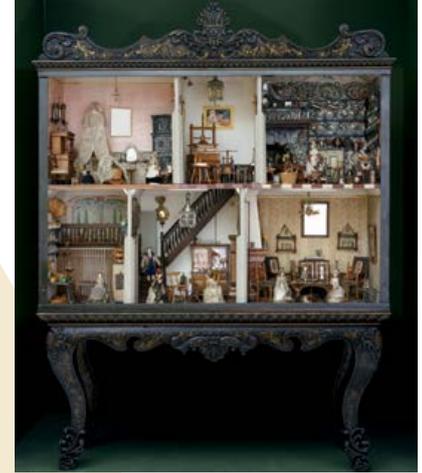
24



22 Schöner's new world

18 Heller altarpiece

The winged altar by Albrecht Dürer and his workshop was made in 1508–1509 commissioned by wealthy Frankfurt cloth merchant Jakob Heller (around 1460–1522) and his wife Katharina von Melem (died 1518). They donated the altar to the Dominican church in Frankfurt and thus invested money into their eternal salvation, life after death. Foundations were supposed to help to improve the balance of the sinful person's life at the Last Judgement before God according to the Christian faith and smooth the path to Paradise.



19 The Gontard doll's house

The marvelous doll's house with its six rooms was gifted to the daughter of a wealthy Frankfurt family in 1748. It presents the typical ideal of middle-class residential living, with great detail. It was not intended for play; rather the daughter of a good middle-class family was expected to use it to learn how a house wife acted as the head of a large household and ran it economically.

Continue to the "Crossings" section (yellow) >



²⁰ Adler automobile

Frankfurt's Adlerwerke factory produced not only bicycles, sewing machines and typewriters, but also cars. In 1937, under the aegis of Adlerwerke's Chief Engineer Karl Jenschke a streamlined and pioneering automobile was built.

The Adler "Autobahn" had a 6-cylinder engine, 55 horsepower, and a top speed of 125 kmh. It was considered highly innovative and modern, but was not one of the company's best-selling models.

Continue to "The Emperor Makers" section (red) ▷

²¹ Ox head

During the festivities on the occasion of an Imperial coronation, an ox grill was erected on the Römerberg. A stuffed ox was placed on a spit and grilled ready for the coronation meal in the Kaisersaal (Emperor's Hall). After the freshly crowned Emperor had taken the very first bite of the ox, the stuffed ox was then distributed among the people. The guilds were forever fighting to bag the ox's head. In particular the butchers' apprentices and the draymen, who transported barrels of wine or beer, were notorious in the battle for this trophy. The election and coronation festivities are presented in the neighbouring section on "The Emperor makers" by means of other outstanding exhibits.



Continue to the "Communications" section (brown) ▷

22 Schöner's new world

This seemingly quite ordinary globe is actually the museum's most precious item – because of its importance for cultural history! In fact, it is the world's oldest globe bearing the description and inscription AMERICA. The globe made by Johannes Schöner in 1515 obviously clearly differs from today's representations of the American continent. The globe comes from the collection originally owned by the old Frankfurt City Library. Most probably, the city acquired the globe at one of the Frankfurt Book Fairs in order to gain an idea of the countries that had been newly discovered.



Continue to the
"Empire of Coins"
section (petrol) ▷



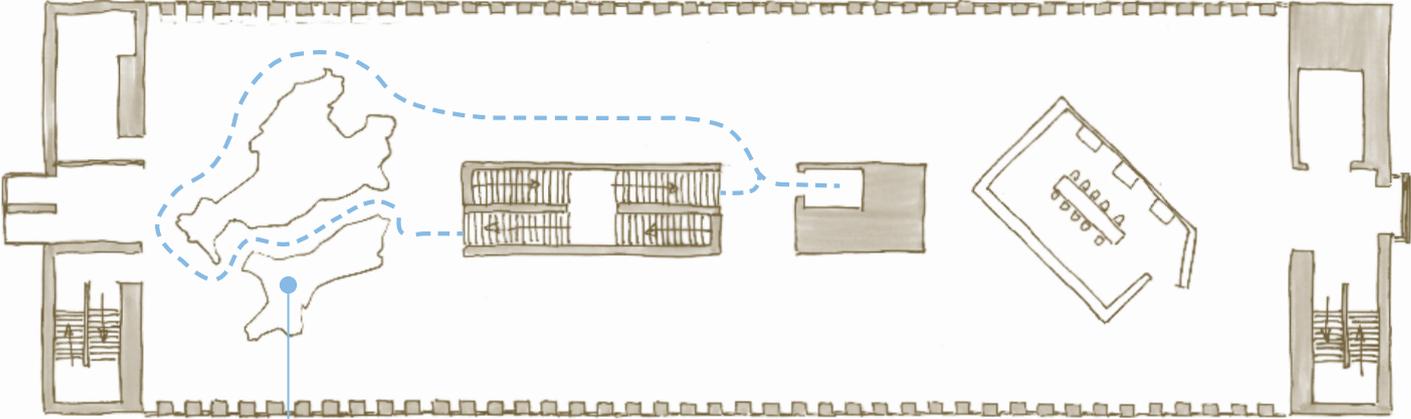
23+24 Charlemagne and Friedrich Ebert

Charlemagne is revered in Frankfurt as the founder of the city. His image, carved from red Main sandstone, stood on Alte Brücke (Old Bridge) from 1843 to 1914. Opposite him stands the monument in honor of the first democratically elected president of the Weimar Republic, Friedrich Ebert, who died in 1925. The monument carved by sculptor and Städel Academy professor Richard Scheibe stood from 1926 to 1933 on the Paulskirche's (St. Paul's Church) eastern wall. In the exhibition, the two sculptures symbolize the monarchical and republican traditions of Frankfurt as an Imperial City and a Free City.

Continue via central stairwell or
by elevator to Level 3 ▷

Frankfurt Now!

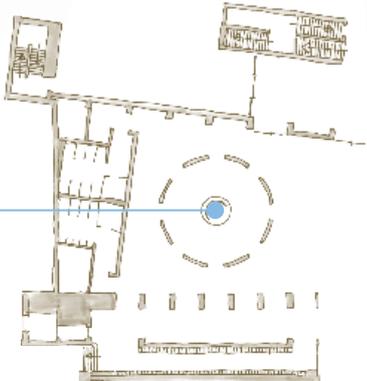
Level 3



25 Frankfurt City Model



Snow Globe 26



Level 0



—²⁵ Frankfurt City Model

The 70 square-meter artistic model of the city today was purpose-made for the museum. It shows Frankfurt the way citizens of all 42 districts of the city described it in 2015. The collected views of the city were then taken by Dutch artist Hermann Helle as the basis for the model. It consists of Frankfurt found objects and everyday items, and paints a picture of the living city.

Continue via central stairwell or by elevator right down to Level 0 ►

—²⁶ Snow Globe

In the impressive installation of an outsized “Snow Globe”, eight characteristics of Frankfurt are depicted by models artists have specially prepared. Using a selection panel, you can choose yourself which model to view. Here, you can really get to know Frankfurt and also receives an introduction to the museum. And there are many details and anecdotes to bring a smile to the face of those who are already familiar with Frankfurt.



You've made it: So why not visit the museum café and enjoy some refreshing snacks and beverages.



Visit us —

— Multimedia guide



You can also use our multimedia guide. Either borrow a device or download the app from our mobile website onto your own mobile device. In this guide, the museum director and the curators tell you all about special places and exhibits in the museum.

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► www.historisches-museum-frankfurt.de

► **Getting here**

Tram 11, 12 Römer/Paulskirche, U4, U5 Dom/Römer
Parking Dom/Römer

► **Opening hours**

Tue - Fri 10 am - 6 pm,
Wed 10 am - 9 pm,
Sat + Sun 11 am - 7 pm

► **Tickets**

8 € / 4 €
Free admission for children and youths under 18
28 € / 18 € / 10 € Museumsufer-Ticket
Two-day ticket valid on two consecutive days (34 museums)

► **Visitor service and guided tours**

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Fri 9 am - 4 pm
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