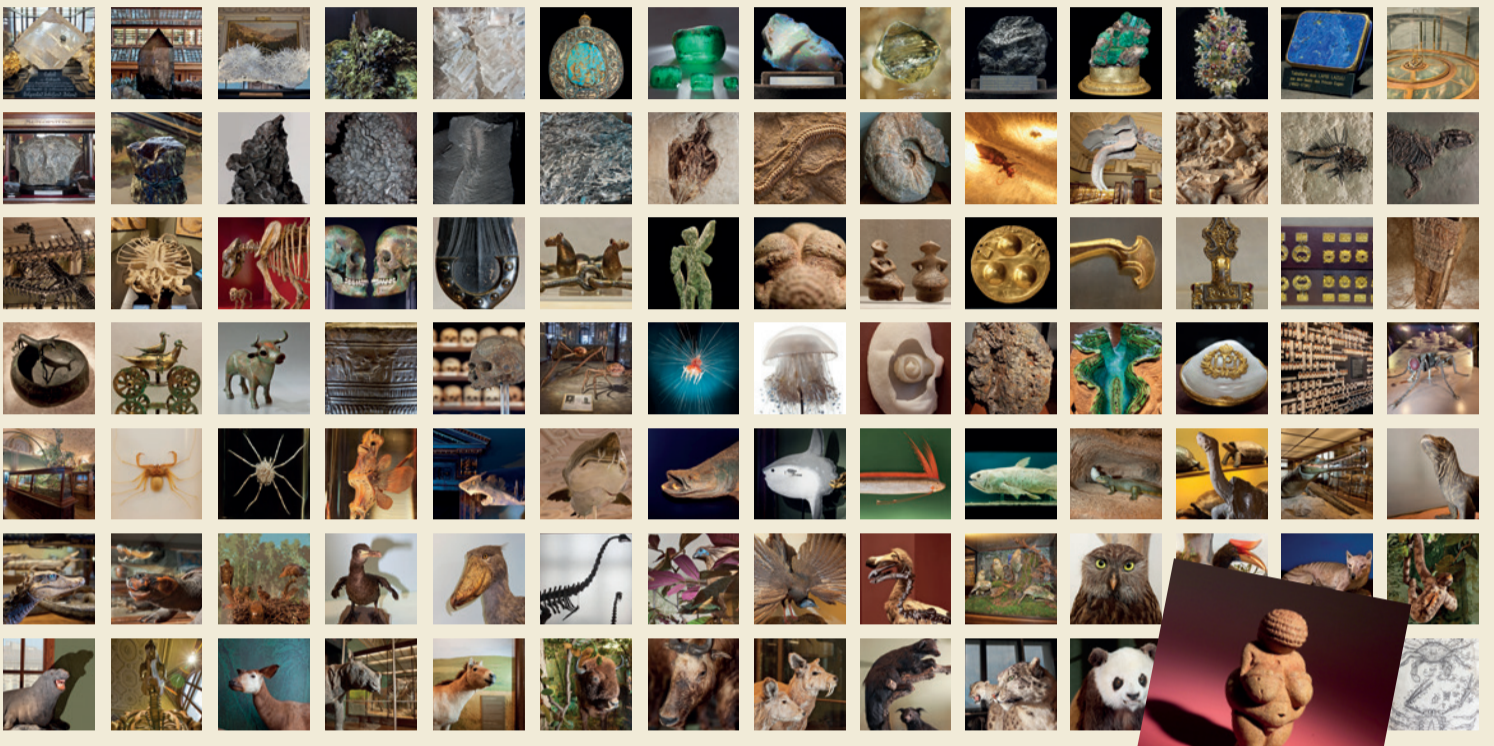


NHM TOP 100

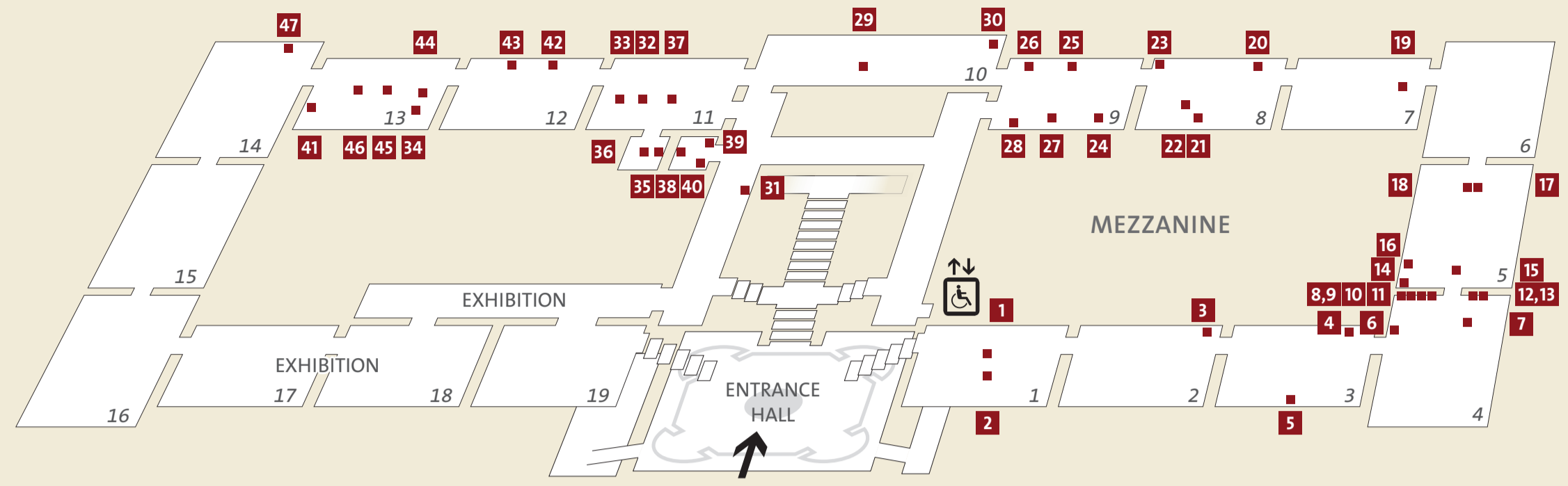
100 objects invite you to discover thousands more

100 objects – 100 stories



Photography: Lois Lammerhuber

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1 ICELAND SPAR
There are very few specimens of Iceland spar of this size and quality, even from the world's best known source, the Helgustadir mine in Iceland.

2 SMOKY QUARTZ
With a circumference of 112 centimeters and weighing 115 kilograms, this crystal is one of the largest ever recovered from the cavern at Switzerland's Tiefen Glacier.

3 FLOWERS OF IRON
The "flowers of iron" from Erzberg in Styria are known the world over for their beauty and quality. Even there, specimens of this size have been found only very seldom.

4 EPIDOTE
Epidote crystals are rare and there are only a few occurrences of them world-wide. It was for this reason that Knappenwand in Salzburg attained world fame as a mineral deposit.

5 ROCK SALT
Rock salt crystals can attain a remarkable size. However, specimens weighing a thousand kilograms with cubes up to 30 centimeters long are an absolute rarity.

6 IMPERIAL TURQUOISE TALISMAN
This instantly recognizable piece worked in magnificent turquoise was a gift to Emperor Franz Joseph I from a Persian turquoise cutter.

7 HABACH VALLEY EMERALD
This emerald crystal was a gift from Salzburg to the imperial and royal mineralogical cabinet in the year 1874. It is one of the largest and finest specimens from the world-famous deposit in the Habach Valley.

8 PRECIOUS OPAL
At 594 grams, this precious opal is not only the largest from a European deposit, but also the most valuable gemstone in the Vienna collection.

9 OCTAHEDRAL DIAMOND
The largest diamond in the Vienna collection is remarkable not only for its 82.5 carats, but also for its purity and perfect octahedral shape.

10 PLATINUM NUGGET
At 6.2 kilograms, the NHM's platinum nugget is the world's third heaviest. Only two nuggets in the Russian State Treasury in Moscow weigh more.

11 EMERALD HAND SPECIMEN
Exquisite emeralds from Colombia were artistically cemented together using cobbler's wax to make a hand specimen – a rare treasure from the early days of collecting.

12 GEMSTONE BOUQUET
The baroque miniature gemstone collection – a gift from Maria Theresa to her husband – is unique both for the value of the stones and for their artistic workmanship.

13 PRINCE EUGENE'S SNUFFBOX
This lapis lazuli snuffbox was made prior to 1736 and was owned by the celebrated Austrian general Prince Eugene of Savoy.

14 ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK AND ORRERY
The astronomical clock and orrery is a miracle of precision engineering, which combines ultimate craftsmanship with the state of knowledge in astronomy in the first half of the 18th century.

15 KNYAHINYA STONY METEORITE
For a long time Knyahinya was the largest known stony meteorite. Fundamental research has been carried out on it regarding the radiation ages of meteorites.

16 NAKHLA MARTIAN METEORITE
Of about 71,000 known meteorites, only 350 come from the planet Mars. Nakhla is one of these extremely rare Martian meteorites.

17 HRASCHINA IRON METEORITE
Hraschina near Zagreb is one of the first scientifically investigated meteorites, and is the foundation of the Vienna meteorite collection, the oldest in the world.

18 CABIN CREEK IRON METEORITE
Cabin Creek is regarded as one of the most beautiful meteorites in the world, and is shown in many books on meteorites as the ideal example of an oriented meteorite.

19 PRIMEVAL RINGED WORM
The deposits at Burgess Pass give a unique picture of the ancient animal world. Primeval beings – including soft tissue – have been preserved here.

20 EXTINCT SEED PLANTS
The fossil plants of Lunz are unique in their wealth, their diversity, and their outstanding state of preservation.

21 PRIMITIVE BIRD
The primitive bird *Confuciusornis* is one of the paleontological treasures. In this male, the long decorative feathers are unusually well preserved.

22 PRIMITIVE SNAKE
One of the most primitive and oldest snakes in the world. This specimen was used for the first scientific description of the species *Pachyophis woodwardi* in 1923 (holotype).

23 GIANT AMMONITE
Parapuzosia seppenradensis is the largest species of ammonite ever to live. At just under a meter diameter, this specimen is the second largest ammonite in Austria.

24 GROUND BEETLE IN BALTIC AMBER
Insects captured in amber, a fossil resin, are some of the most attractive examples of primeval life.

25 HOE TUSKER
Complete skeletons of large mammals, such as this *Deinotherium* (hoe tusker), are very rare and valuable. Mostly, only individual fossil bones are discovered in alluvial deposits.

26 FOSSIL OYSTER REEF
The largest oysters and mussels ever to live formed a mighty reef in today's Korneuburg Basin. This was also the origin of the world's largest fossil pearl.

27 SCORPION FISH
St. Margarethen is a world-class lagerstätte, but most of the scientific sensations from this site seem commonplace. The scorpion fish is an exception.

28 PRIMEVAL DWARF HORSES
The primeval horses from Messel are among the most important fossils, both because of their outstanding state of preservation and because of their key role in equine evolution.

29 DIPLODOCUS
The Diplodocus skeleton is the biggest exhibit at NHM Vienna, and was one of the first almost complete skeletons of the large dinosaurs to be discovered.

30 GIANT MARINE TURTLE
The world's largest, most complete, and heaviest turtle skeleton.

31 CAVE BEAR WITH CUB
The only complete skeleton of a young cave bear.

32 SKULL FROM FRANZHAUSEN BURIAL SITE
The skull, which is some 4,000 years old, is a unique example of the Bronze Age as a time of fundamental economic and social change.

33 ORNAMENTAL DAGGER FROM MAIERSDORF
The bronze ornamental dagger is one of the finest examples of Bronze Age smithing, and its fantastical scratch decoration is particularly appealing.

34 HORSE TACK FROM STILLFRIED
The bronze horse tack from Stillfried is some of the oldest metal tack found in Austria, and indicates links with the Eurasian steppes.

35 STATUETTE FROM GALGENBERG
For long, the 36,000-year-old statuette also known as "Fanny" was regarded as the world's oldest human figure. Only in 2008 a human figure was discovered in a cave in southern Germany which is probably even older.

36 VENUS OF WILLENDORF
The perfection of the representation and harmonious style make the 29,500-year-old figure of the "Venus of Willendorf" one of the most expressive works of art from the Paleolithic Age.

37 SEATED IDOL OF PAZARDZHIK
Although the exact circumstances of the discovery are unknown, the clay figure from Pazardzhik is the most important seated female figure from the New Stone Age in Bulgaria, due to its design.

38 STOLLHOF HOARD
One of the most important finds from the New Stone Age was made in the region of the Hohe Wand mountains, where Austria's oldest gold and copper artefacts were buried.

39 GOLDEN AXE OF TUFALAU
The pure gold crested axe was not a practical piece but a very rare status symbol, evidence of a high social position and great economic power.

40 LANGOBIAN GOLD BROOCH
The brooch in silver, gilded and decorated with amandines is a unique find for Austria. The form and design are essential for dating.

41 LANGOBIAN DECORATIVE HORSE TACK
The splendid horse tack comes from a woman's grave. It is regarded as a masterpiece of the Langobardian goldsmiths, and is unique in the settled region along the Danube.

42 LEATHER BAG FROM HALLSTATT
Organic materials, such as this leather bag, could only be preserved for over 3,000 years in the prehistoric mine at Hallstatt – an archeological sensation.

43 BRONZE SCOOP
These two unusual bronze ladles with cow-calf handles have been found only at Hallstatt so far. These masterpieces of Iron Age ironwork were used as scoops.

44 BIRD CHARIOT
The bird chariot is an outstanding piece of art by prehistoric bronze casters and a rare cult object with high symbolic content from an illiterate culture.

45 FIGURE OF A BULL
The 2,500-year-old bull in bronze is one of the most artistically sophisticated and valuable figures from the Hallstatt culture.

46 KUFFARN SITULA
The Kuffarn situla, the northernmost find of this type, is striking for its detailed bands of images from the life of the Celts 2,400 years ago.

47 MLADEČ SKULL
As one of the oldest definitively dated *Homo sapiens* finds in Europe, the Mladeč skull is at the focus of current scientific controversy about human history.

