

Toy Museum

About the Toy Museum

The building opened in 1971 in the heart of Nuremberg – a city of toys for more than 600 years. Nuremberg's tradition extends from medieval doll makers to later makers of tin figurines and metal toys, to today's International Toy Fair. In its 1400 square meters (15,000 sq. ft.) of exhibition space, the Toy Museum displays "the world in miniature," with dolls, doll-sized shops, tin figurines, toys in metal and wood, and a very large model train layout.

Of course the exhibits also include toys from today, including names like Lego, Barbie, Playmobil and Matchbox. An imaginatively designed play area regularly offers opportunities for children, teenagers and grownups alike to participate in arts and crafts projects.

During the summer months, an attractive, 700-square-meter (7500 sq. ft.) outdoor playground is available to children and families. A "Playing in the Past" area offers kids large and small a chance to try historic amusements. There's also a climbing net, a balance bar and a hedge labyrinth. "Shadowland" provides regular tours through a late-medieval vaulted cellar, exploring how light and shadow led to the development of various optical toys. Not least of all, the Museum Café, in an idyllic interior courtyard, affords a chance to relax and refresh.

Contact:

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Toy Museum

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History of the museum

The Toy Museum originated with the toy collections of Lydia (1897–1961) and Paul Bayer (1896–1982), who began collecting toys back in the 1920s. Their children Paul (1926–1943) and Lydia (1929–2000) grew up surrounded by historic toys. In 1962, daughter Lydia, as a young art historian, developed her parents' collection into a private museum in Würzburg, whose holdings were taken over by the City of Nuremberg in 1966. In 1971, the collection found its own home at Karlstrasse 13, in a building with a Renaissance façade dating from around 1610: the Nuremberg Toy Museum.

During the years from 1971 to 1994, under Dr. Lydia Bayer's leadership and with the support of the city's head of cultural affairs Prof. Dr. Hermann Glaser, the museum developed into an extraordinarily successful institution with an international reputation. A large extension wing was opened in 1989. In 1999, a roof expansion added new exhibition space, as well as a children's play area, and the museum also gained its own outdoor playground. "Shadowland," in the building's historic vaulted cellar, is a setting for presentations about optical games. The Toy Museum has some 3,000 items on permanent display. Another roughly 70,000 inventoried items among its holdings can be viewed online at the website of the Nuremberg Municipal Museums.

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INFORMATION

Admission

Adults: 5 EUR
Reductions: 3 EUR

Hours

Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday, holidays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
During the Christmas Market in December also:
Monday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
During the International Toy Fair:
Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Getting here

Tram line 4: Hallertor stop
Bus line 36: Weintraubengasse stop
U1 /11: Lorenzkirche stop, take exit "Hauptmarkt"

Contact

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