

City Museum at Fembo's House

Nuremberg's only surviving large Late Renaissance merchant's house – halfway up the hill to the Imperial Castle – invites visitors to experience a trip through the city's past. Priceless original rooms, staged settings and audio plays bring 950 years of Nuremberg's history to life. The museum's Exhibition Forum, with its changing presentations, is a showcase for the city's history, art and culture.

For centuries, Nuremberg had been at the center of German and European history. It was one of the most powerful imperial cities of the Holy Roman Empire and was the city most frequently visited by German emperors and kings. Trade and crafts brought Nuremberg wealth, power, and recognition. By the fourteenth century, the city had developed into a flourishing trade center. Nuremberg merchants had extensive international trade connections, maintained branch offices all over Europe, and were represented at all trade fairs and markets.

During the German Renaissance, Nuremberg was home to famed artist Albrecht Dürer and Europe's largest printer-publisher, Anton Koberger. In 1525, Nuremberg was one of the first major German cities to introduce Lutheran Reformation. After the Thirty Year's War, however, Nuremberg gradually lost its importance. Finally, in the early twentieth century, the medieval cityscape served as a welcome stage for the Nazi Party Rallies of the Third Reich – there was no better place for cashing in on the myth of the old German Empire.

Covering Nuremberg's history from its first-ever mention in a document in the year 1050 to the reconstruction of the city's Old Town after the air raids of the Second World War, the City Museum at Fembo's House plays the role of a waymarker, inviting and directing visitors to other outstanding points in Nuremberg's history and museum landscape. It is, however, also an important place in its own right, presenting a wide variety of valuable historic items and paintings, impressive baroque stuccowork and authentic rooms from centuries past, like the "Beautiful Room" from the Peller House or Nuremberg's oldest surviving family hall.

A merchant's house, patrician mansion, map publishing house, museum – just like Nuremberg itself, the Fembo's House has had a rich history and has played many different roles. Philipp van Oyrl, a merchant from the Netherlands, built the house downhill from the Imperial Castle between 1591 and 1596. In the 17th century, Nuremberg patrician Christoph Jakob Behaim converted it into a splendid mansion, and during the 18th and 19th centuries, it was the production site for millions of copperplate maps, as the home of the famed Homann Mapmakers.

Contact:

PR department

Hirschelgasse 9-11

90403 Nuremberg

Tel.: +49 (0)911 / 2 31-54 20

Fax: +49 (0)911 / 2 31-1 49 81

presse-museen@stadt.nuernberg.de

City Museum at the Fembohaus

Burgstraße 15

90403 Nürnberg

Tel.: +49 (0)9 11 / 2 31-25 95

Fax: +49 (0)9 11 / 2 31-25 96

stadtmuseum-fembohaus@

stadt.nuernberg.de

museen.nuernberg.de

The printing company, established by Johann Baptist Homann, slowly turned into one of Europe's leading map publishers. The introduction of astronomic bearings made Homann's maps more precise than French or Dutch maps – the best maps of the moon and the stars, the first atlases, as well as the most precise map of Germany at that time were all printed at Fembo's House. In the early 19th century, bookseller and publisher Georg Christoph Franz Fembo acquired the building, which passed to the City of Nuremberg in 1928. The main building survived the bombardments of the Second World War almost intact, and in 1953, Fembo's House was turned into a museum, documenting both the city's history and that of the building itself.

And history's constantly changing: Since 2016, a newly designed exhibition space in the City Museum also presents superb reproductions of the Imperial Regalia – the crown jewels of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. Although Emperor Sigismund had decreed in 1424 that the Imperial Regalia should be housed in Nuremberg "eternally", the crown jewels only remained here until 1796 (today, the originals are at display in Vienna). The centuries of residence of the crown, scepter and orb, however, left behind many traces in Nuremberg's colorful history. In a multi-language media guide, prominent visitors to Nuremberg and new citizens from past eras narrate exciting stories surrounding the crown jewels and provide further insight into the city's eventful background.



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Entrance Fees

Adults: 5 Euro
Concessions: 3 Euro

Contact

City Museum at Fembo's House
Burgstraße 15
90403 Nuremberg
Phone: +49 (0)9 11 / 2 31-25 95
Fax: +49 (0)9 11 / 2 31-25 96
E-Mail: stadtmuseum-fembohaus@stadt.nuernberg.de
www.stadtmuseum-fembohaus.de

Opening Hours

Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Transportation

Bus line 36: Station Burgstraße
U1/U11: Station Lorenzkirche, exit Hauptmarkt

For further information, please contact the public relations department of the Municipal Museums of the City of Nuremberg, telephone number +49 (09)11 231 - 54 20, E-Mail: presse-museen@stadt.nuernberg.de.

