



Vulkaneifel European Geopark Gerolsteiner Land

Museum of Natural History Gerolstein

Open April–October; Mo–Fr 14–17 h; Sa, Sun 11–17 h

The beautiful **Gerolstein Museum of Natural History** is located at the heart of the **Vulkaneifel European Geopark**, close to the Rhine-valley and the BeNeLux-countries. Built upon solid dolomite rock, the baroque building of today's museum towers majestically above the ancient city centre and the **Kyll river valley**. In 1987, the old city hall became the **Gerolstein Museum of Natural History**, now containing the **geological heritage** of Gerolstein County and some of the finest evidence of ancient times long gone by.



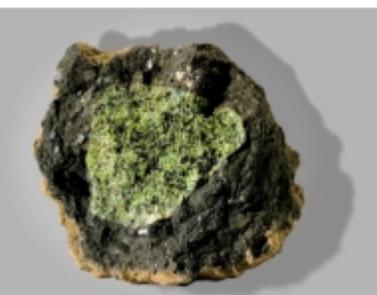
Fossils, rocks, and a cave invite into the Museum of Natural History in Gerolstein



Exploring the earth



Mid-Devonian trilobite



Green mantle xenolith

Ever since **Alexander von Humboldt** was digging for fossils around Gerolstein, the area has been praised for its rich **Mid-Devonian fossil reef community**. Mid-Devonian corals, sea-lilies, stromatopores, gastropodes and sensational **trilobites** are exhibited in our museum.

A volcanic highlight is the superb collection of **glazed sandstones** that once fell into boiling magma. And there is a unique collection of **xenoliths** from both the earth's upper mantle and crust. A department with **prehistoric artifacts** and an **interactive forest department** complete this wonderful museum. Kids are especially fond of our **cave**.

Each **Friday** at **10 h** a free guided tour starts to explore the treasures of the museum. Upon request, **school groups** and other interested parties can book 1-hour guided tours. Special programs are set up for children including live-excavations in our **georium**, and birthday parties in our prehistoric cave and forest department.

The museum is co-operating with several universities in Germany and abroad in research into **alkaline rocks**, **maars**, and the **Devonian eco-system**. We are also a long-time partner of the Vulkaneifel European Geopark.

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