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.

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 wondrous 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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