

THE MUSEUMS OF WETZLAR



Reichskammergericht Museum
Hofstatt 19 · 35578 Wetzlar
Tel. 06441 99-4160 · E-Mail: museum@wetzlar.de
www.museen-wetzlar.de

Opening hours:
Tuesday to Sunday:
1 April – 31 Oct 11.00 am – 5.00 pm
1 Nov – 31 March 11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Closed on 24 Dec, 25 Dec, 31 Dec and 1 Jan.

The Wetzlar Stadtmuseum

The Wetzlar Stadtmuseum opened in 1925 in the two main buildings of the former headquarters of the Wetzlar branch of the Teutonic Order: the Hostel and the Tithe Barn. Along with the residence of the former administrator of the Teutonic Order – what is today known as the “Lotte House” – the complex of buildings embodies the history of the Teutonic Order in Wetzlar.

The permanent exhibition on the history of the city of Wetzlar is located in the Hostel building. Since 2010, the Tithe Barn has served, above all, as a forum for the highly varied special exhibitions of the Wetzlar Stadtmuseum on topics in municipal, cultural and literary history.

The permanent exhibition is housed in the former Teutonic Order Hostel. Excavated prehistorical and early historical artefacts bear witness to the rich history of Wetzlar and the surrounding area since the Early Bronze Age. The archaeological holdings of Wetzlar’s municipal collections show that people have lived in the region at almost all times. A representative selection of the rich finds of excavations since the beginning of the 19th century is to be seen in the Stadtmuseum.

In currently six rooms, the “Early Municipal History” section documents the history of Wetzlar from the



Stadtmuseum and Viseum Wetzlar

Early Middle Ages to the 19th century by way of selected exhibits.

Sacred art and architectural exhibits show the importance of the Wetzlar Cathedral. Among other things, textiles, paintings, furniture and household equipment illustrate aspects of craft culture and everyday life in the bourgeois milieu from the 15th century to the time in which Wetzlar was the seat of the Reichskammergericht (1689-1806).

Exhibits drawn from local and regional industrial history – including the company history of important Wetzlar-based businesses in the fields of optics, iron-working, precision engineering, vacuum technology, home electronics and machine tool manufacturing – are presented on the ground floor of the Tithe Barn.



The Wetzlar Stadtmuseum
Lottestraße 8-10 · 35578 Wetzlar
Tel. 06441 99-4131 oder -4140
E-Mail: museum@wetzlar.de · www.museen-wetzlar.de

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Tuesday to Sunday:
1 April – 31 Oct 10.00 am – 5.00 pm
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Wetzlar Viseum

A historic building. A modern industry. The Wetzlar Viseum brings them both together. 14 businesses in the optical precision engineering branch invite you to take a journey of discovery through the restored 18th century town house.

From room to room, a beam of light leads you through a portrait of an industry with a bright future. The presentation of the optical foundations is followed by the demonstration of legendary everyday and future applications, allowing you to see optics and precision engineering in a new light.

Capturing a moment in a picture, making what is small look large and what is far-away look nearby. For 150 years, engineers and physicists in Wetzlar have been spurred on by these dreams. Their inventions shape our perception. They affect how we see the world and they are changing our everyday lives. If you want to learn more about photography, you should visit the Ernst-Leitz Museum in the Leitz Park.

Viseum - Museum of Optics and Precision Engineering
Lottestraße 8-10 · 35578 Wetzlar
Tel. 06441 99-4140 oder -4131
E-Mail: info@viseum-wetzlar.de · www.viseum-wetzlar.de

Opening hours:
Tuesday to Sunday:
1 April – 31 Oct 10.00 am – 5.00 pm
1 Nov – 31 March 11.00 am – 4.00 pm
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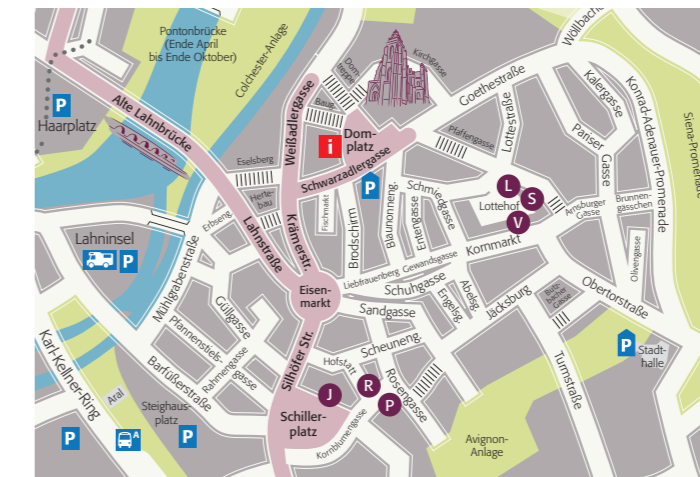
Palais Papius, Reichskammergericht Museum, Stadtmuseum: “Pay what you like” for individual admissions; for groups, “pay what you like” price recommendation in accordance with the prices for Lotte House, Jerusalem House and Viseum.

Price	Lotte House, Jerusalem House ¹	Viseum	All three museums
Single admission: Adults	3,00 €	3,50 €	6,00 €
Single admission: Children and young people 6-17 years old, trainees, students	2,00 €	2,50 €	4,00 €
Group of 10 or more adults	2,00 €	3,00 €	4,00 €
Group of 10 or more children and young people, trainees, students	1,50 €	2,00 €	3,00 €
Family ticket	7,00 €	8,00 €	12,00 €

¹ Lotte House and Jerusalem House = one museum

Admission is free for children under six, severely disabled persons (upon presentation of disability card), teachers accompanying school groups and school classes from Wetzlar schools (including district schools). When admission is charged for events in municipal museums, the above groups of persons receive discounts.

Accessibility at www.museen-wetzlar.de/Öffnungszeiten, Eintrittspreise, Führungen, Barrierefreiheit



THE MUSEUMS



OF WETZLAR

daslahntal.de



Lotte House

No less than six museums fascinate visitors to Wetzlar's old town. The museums and their historical collections reflect Wetzlar's eventful and multi-faceted history.

They include the Stadtmuseum, the Lotte House, the Jerusalem House and the Lemmers-Danfort collection at Palais Papius.

In 1987, they were joined by the Reichskammergericht Museum: a museum devoted to the Reichskammergericht or Imperial Chamber Court. The museum was jointly founded by the Society for Research on the Imperial Chamber Court and the city of Wetzlar. In 2007, the Viseum Museum of Optics and Precision Engineering opened. The museum is sponsored by the Viseum Association.



The Lotte House

Besides the Ordensherberge or Hostel and the Tithe Barn, in 1653, a third building was added to the complex of the Marburg branch of the Teutonic Order in Wetzlar: the house of the Order's lay administrator. The building did not get the name "Lotte House" – the name by which it is still commonly known today – 1863, when citizens of Wetzlar established a memorial in it for Charlotte Kestner, née Buff.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe met "Lotte" in the summer of 1772, during his time in Wetzlar as an intern at Reichskammergericht. As part of the book's autobiographical background, she was the inspiration for the main character of "Lotte" in his earliest novel The Sorrows of Young Werther.

Portraits of the Buff family and objects of personal use are exhibited in the permanent exhibition of the Lotte House, as are furniture and household items typical of the 19th century bourgeois milieu. Three rooms are devoted to Goethe's novel. In addition to international editions of Werther from the 18th to the 20th centuries, prints and paintings with literary motifs drawn from the novel are also displayed. In addition to the first printing of Werther, imitations, polemics, parodies and translations in the permanent exhibition give visitors a feel for the sort of reception the book had in its time: the proverbial "Werther Fever" that took hold soon after the book's publication.

Lotte House

Lottestraße 8-10 · 35578 Wetzlar
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Tuesday to Sunday:
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Jerusalem House

The Jerusalem House

As second literary memorial, the Jerusalem House on Schillerplatz, provides the counterpart to the Lotte House.

The building is named precisely for the legation secretary Karl Wilhelm Jerusalem, who lived in the house as a tenant until his tragic suicide on 30 October 1772 and who would become the original model for the character of Werther in Goethe's novel.

The building in fact served as the residence of the Winckler family: book printers who rented two of the rooms in the front of the house to members of the Reichskammergericht and set up their print shop in a building adjacent to the back. The book printer Georg Ernst Winckler (1656-1728) came to Wetzlar from Herborn in 1694, after the Reichskammergericht was moved from Speyer to Wetzlar in 1689, and he began work as a printer in the same year. The family continued to run the print shop over several generations.

The literary memorial room, which was set up in 1907, features historical furniture and documents from the 18th century. The house also contains, besides the

museum administration, the archive of the Wetzlar artist Paul Klose, as well as the extensive collections of graphics and original manuscripts, the Wetzlar Goethe Society's Goethe-Werther library.

Jerusalem House

Schillerplatz 5 · 35578 Wetzlar
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Tuesday to Sunday:
all year: 14.00 am – 5.00 pm
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The Palais Papius

Dr. Irmgard von Lemmers-Danforth Collection: "European Domestic Interiors of the Renaissance and Baroque Periods"

The Palais Papius houses the extensive collection of "European Domestic Interiors of the Renaissance and Baroque Periods" that was put together by the pediatrician Dr. Irmgard von Lemmers-Danforth. The beginnings of the collection date back to the late 1920s when purchasing furniture for her home and medical practice became Dr. Irmgard von Lemmers-Danforth's passion. Wanting to provide a panorama



Palais Papius

of the domestic lifestyles of both the bourgeois and courtly milieus, the collector soon turned her attention also to decorative arts, painting, sculpture and textiles. Thus, by the time of her death in 1984, she had assembled around 450 pieces.

In 1963, she donated large parts of her collection to the city of Wetzlar. Four years later, the donated items moved into the aristocratic villa of the former assessor of the Reichskammergericht, Johann Hermann Franz von Pape (1717-1793). The exhibits were presented according to the classical principle of "period rooms," each devoted to reconstructing the domestic ambiance of an era or an artistic style. It was Irmgard von Lemmers-Danforth herself who arranged for this form of exhibition. She was familiar with this style of presentation of the 19th century from her visits to the former Kaiser Friedrich Museum in Berlin (today known as the Bode Museum, Berlin).

The presentation still follows the collector's original concept since the reopening of the museum in 2012. Thus, the museum visit continues to take the form of a voyage through artistic landscapes and stylistic periods, providing the public a varied and high-

quality image of domestic life in both the courtly and bourgeois milieus.

Palais Papius, Dr. Irmgard von Lemmers-Danforth Collection: "European Domestic Interiors of the Renaissance and Baroque Periods"
Kornblumengasse 1 · 35578 Wetzlar
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The Reichskammergericht Museum

In 1985, interested persons from law, scholarship and municipal government founded the Society for Research on the Imperial Chamber Court (Gesellschaft für Reichskammergerichtsforschung e.V.), which set itself the aim of establishing a museum and research center.

In 1987, the museum opened in a Chamber Court building: the so-called "Avemansche Haus". Since its founding, the work of the museum has been supported by a scientific advisory board and the Research Center of the Society for Research on the Imperial Chamber Court of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main.

In 1495, in the wake of imperial reform and the proclamation of "eternal peace," Kaiser Maximilian I founded the Reichskammergericht (1495-1806) as the highest court of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. Its task was to replace feuds, violence, and the exacting of ransom payments by an orderly