

Christmas exhibition press release
2 November 2024 – 2 February 2025

Glittering Anticipation

A Stroll through the Advent Calendar

Advent calendars make the wait for Christmas magical, filling us with excitement as we eagerly count down the days to opening that final door on 24 December.

Long before Christmas Eve, we begin to prepare for the festive season with various traditions – one of which is the Advent calendar. The idea dates back to the mid-19th century, when inventive parents began crafting countdown aids to mark the seemingly endless days until Christmas. By the early 20th century, the first printed Advent calendars were on the market. Soon there was a huge variety – calendars with little doors, rotating dials, fillable pockets, tear-off pages, or pull-out figures, etc. Historical Advent houses, Christmas trees and lanterns testify to remarkable creativity. Their motifs invite visitors to immerse themselves in a world of seasonal cheer.

You don't have to wait until Christmas to open all the doors in this exhibition. Alongside historic calendars from the Alfred Dünninger collection, there are interactive stations and fascinating stories to discover. How many Advent calendars do you have? Do you prefer the classic picture calendars, or the ones filled with chocolate and other little surprises?

Every night during the Advent season, Mare, the museum's very own gnome, is up to mischief. You can follow Mare's pranks on the Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel Instagram channel. Sometimes Mare even leaves clues in the museum itself ... A cosy reading corner offers a peaceful retreat during the hectic weeks leading up to Christmas. There is also a sleigh cinema, night tours of the museum and a winter fairy tale hour to help pass the time until Christmas Eve. Finally, in January we're going to celebrate the end of the dark season with a Magic Museum Night.

Exhibition texts are available in German, French, English, Italian, and easy-to-read formats. The museum is wheelchair-accessible.

Programme of events

Saturday, 2 November 2024, from 10 am

Exhibition opening

Candle making for all ages!

Saturday, 9 November 2024, 10 am–2 pm

Create boho-style candle arrangements with local florist Rebekka's Handwerkstatt

Places are limited, 35 CHF/arrangement

Wednesday, 20 November 2024, 10 am

Wednesday Matinee

Short guided tour of the exhibition followed by a lecture by Gottfried Keller on the origins of St Nicholas and his journey from the Roman Empire to Basel. (in German)

Registration until the evening before: event@swm-basel.ch. Places are limited.

5 CHF/10 CHF

Friday, 29 November 2024, 6–9 pm

Night at the Museum – Taffy and the Monsters

“Taffy and the Monsters” is a torch adventure that takes children on a monster hunt through the museum. The trap works, and on closer inspection things aren't half as scary as they seem. (in German)

Theatre piece by Miriam Jenni and Michael Schoch

From age 5, children must be accompanied by an adult

Reservations until the evening before: event@swm-basel.ch. Places are limited.

Starting times: 6pm / 6.45 pm / 7.30 pm (duration approx. 45 minutes).

7 CHF per child, free with Basler Familienpass (Basel Family Pass).

Friday, 6 December 2024, 2–6 pm

Visit from Santiglaus

Santiglaus can't wait to hear your Christmas rhymes!

Saturday, 14 December 2024, 2–5 pm

Winter fairy tales

Immerse yourself in enchanting Christmas stories, read by professional storytellers. (in German)

Wednesday, 18 December 2024, 2–5 pm

Craft workshop

Make your own skier figurines with Junioratelier and send them racing down the slopes!

Sunday, 22 December 2024, 2 pm

Sleigh cinema in the Säali

“Pettersson und Findus – Das schönste Weihnachten überhaupt” (2016, FSK 0 rating, in German).

Sunday, 29 December 2024, 2–6 pm

Glitter tattoos for the New Year's Eve party

Friday, 17 January 2025, from 6 pm

Magic Museum Night

Sunday, 2 February 2025, from 10 am
Closing event – Only 325 days to next Christmas!
Junk gift exchange with prize wheel

Every Wednesday and Sunday, 1.30–5.30 pm
Advent craft workshop
Paint your own tealight stars
Children must be accompanied by an adult

Opening Hours

January to November: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am–6 pm
December: Open every day from 10 am–6 pm

Holiday Hours Christmas and New Year

24 December 2024: 10 am–4 pm
25/26 December 2024: closed
31 December 2024: 10 am–4 pm
1 January 2025: closed

Admission

7 CHF, no additional fee for the special exhibition.
Children under 16 are free (must be accompanied by an adult if under 12).

For more information about the exhibition

Sibille Arnold, curator and director of Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel: arnold@swm-basel.ch

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news@swm-basel.ch

About Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel

A doll plays in a toy shop, teddy bears race around in pedal cars and an entire amusement park comes to life at the push of a button: with over 6,000 objects, Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel offers unparalleled abundance and quality. Housed in a building dating from 1867, it is located in the heart of Basel. Its cheerful, lovingly and regularly updated window displays are famous far and wide, attracting young and old alike to a world full of wonders.

The museum also hosts several special exhibitions each year on a wide range of themes, giving visitors the opportunity to take a cultural journey, learn something new and discover objects in often surprising historical contexts.