Technik Museum Speyer

Things worth knowing about the Technik Museum Speyer

In the museum area of the Technik Museum Speyer, one sensation chases the next.

Under the title 'Legends on Wheels - Pioneering Spirit, Innovation, Tradition' and in collaboration with Mercedes-Benz Trucks Classic, 18 exhibits from the period from 1899 to 2024 will be presented. Source TMSNHSP

1. History

The Technik Museum Speyer has its roots in the Technik Museum Sinsheim. In the early 1990s, when the possibilities of expansion in Sinsheim were nearly exhausted, the opportunity to build a second Museum in the very center of Speyer on the premises of the former Pfalz Aircraft Company came as a rare and fortunate chance. The first exhibition hall was the so-called "Liller Halle", a listed factory building from 1913, which today mainly shows vintage cars, motorcycles, aircraft, and fire engines. Today the museum has more than 25,000 m^2 indoor space and over 150,000 m^2 outdoor area. Colorful events and changing special exhibitions round off the range of exhibitions at the Technik Museum Speyer. The current special exhibition is dedicated to commercial vehicles from Mercedes-Benz Trucks until March 2026. Under the title 'Legends on Wheels - Pioneering Spirit, Innovation, Tradition' and in collaboration with Mercedes-Benz Trucks Classic, 18 exhibits from the period from 1899 to 2024 will be presented. The exhibition includes historic lorries, modern commercial vehicles and concept studies that illustrate the technical development and innovative spirit of the brand. Each vehicle represents a specific era and shows the changes in design, technology and functionality.

Due to the huge outdoor area the museum made it possible to show very large and unusual exhibit items. The beginning was made in 1993 with the U9, a submarine of the German Navy with a length of 46 m and a weight of 466 tons. In 1999 it was followed by the Antonov An-22, the largest propeller-driven aircraft built in series with a wing span of 64 m and a length of 58 m. In 2003 the museum wrote history when a Boeing 747 "Jumbo Jet" of the Lufthansa was mounted on a gigantic steel scaffold erected on the premises of the museum. To this day, the "Jumbo Jet" in the Technik Museum Speyer is the only aircraft of this kind which was dismantled, transported to a place outside from an airport and reassembled again. Since 2011, spectacular

new large exhibit items have been expanding the maritime exhibition of the Technik Museum Speyer: the rescue cruiser John T. Essberger of the DGzRS, the towboat “Glarus” and a fir-fighting boat of the Mannheim fire department. In April 2011 landed a Transall transport aircraft of the German air force in Speyer and complemented since then the large aircraft collection of the museum.

In 2000, the Museum Wilhelmsbau was opened in a historic building, which once housed the administration of the Pfalz Aircraft Company, on the premises of the Technik Museum Speyer. On four floors with 3,000 m^2 exhibition space this “museum within a museum” shows, besides other things, automatic musical instruments, fashion of the 18th and 19th century, artistic dolls, historic weapons, and uniforms. A special attraction is the “Lindenstrasse Room” with many exhibit items from the popular German telecast “Lindenstrasse”.

The high point of the history of the museum so far was the acquisition of a Soviet Buran orbiter, the counterpart of the US American space shuttle. The transport of the Soviet shuttle in early 2008, which led from Bahrain over the open sea to Rotterdam and from there on a pontoon up the Rhine to Speyer, was an outstanding media event. To adequately present the shuttle to the visitors a new hall was built on the premises of the museum in Speyer. The building has a length of 85 m, a width of 75 m and a height of up to 22 m. The total exhibition space on three levels sums up to about 9,000 m^2. Outside from Russia and the USA the Buran in Speyer is the only space shuttle which can be visited in a museum.

Besides the Buran, the Technik Museum Speyer shows in the new hall the space exhibition “Apollo and Beyond”. With the help of many unique exhibit items, this exhibition tells the exciting story of manned space flight. From space suits to space food and a toilet which also works in weightlessness the exhibition encompasses everything connected to space flight. The museum also succeeded in obtaining the original SPACELAB training module from DLR for the exhibition. In addition, the museum received a 1:1 model of the ISS module COLUMBUS from the aerospace company EADS Astrium and a 1:10 model of the International Space Station ISS from the European Space Angency ESA. In May 2010 the exhibition was complemented by another spectacular exhibit item: the original landing capsule of Soyuz mission TM 19 which took the German astronaut Ulf Merbold back to Earth in 1994.

On occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first manned space flight in early 2011, the exhibition was considerably extended and now also shows 60 information panels and 100 exhibit items describing the history of manned Soviet/Russian space flight. One particularly interesting object

is a true-to-the-original 1:1 replica of the Vostok spaceship with which Yuri Gagarin first flew into space in 1961.
In June 2013 another highlight could be added to the space flight exhibition. In the newly designed exhibition area “The Moon” the history of the moon landings is now comprehensively presented. Besides detailed information tables this section shows true-to-the-original 1:1 replicas auf the Apollo 11 landing module “EAGLE”, the Lunar Roving Vehicle, which was employed during the Apollo 15 - 17 missions, and of the space suits worn by the Apollo 17 astronauts Eugene A. „Gene“ Cernan and Harrison H. „Jack“ Schmitt. The absolute highlight, however, of the ensemble is a moon rock which was chipped off from a basalt boulder by the astronauts Dave Scott and Jim Irwin at station 4 of the second Apollo 15 excursion within the Hadley Apenninen landing zone on 1 August 1971. Within Germany the Technik Museum Speyer is the only museum presenting a genuine moon rock in a detailed setting with well-grounded information.

Other highlights in the space flight hall are changing special exhibitions, mainly covering automobiles, as well as one permanent motorcycle exhibitions - a Münch exhibition comprising 26 specimens of the legendary “Mammut” from the workshop of the German motorcycle constructor Friedel Münch.

2. The IMAX DOME Cinema at the Technik Museum Speyer

The IMAX DOME Cinema at the Technik Museum Speyer, the only movie theater of this kind in Germany, opened in 1997. Contrary to other cinemas, in the IMAX DOME the movie is not projected on a flat screen but rather on a gigantic dome. The movies, which change on the hour, are optimally adjusted to the technology of this movie theater. They guarantee a movie experience that surpasses all other usual cinemas.

The IMAX DOME screen has a base diameter of 24 m and an area of almost 1000 m^2. In spite of this huge size the images remain crystal clear since IMAX uses a very large movie format which is 14 times larger than the usual 35 mm film. An adequate sound experience is delivered by a gigantic six channel sound system with 22,000 Watts power and a subbases system which lets you feel the action of the movie.

The movies shown in the IMAX DOME are both, entertaining and informative. They take visitors to places which they otherwise could hardly or never reach and show the beauty of nature and thrilling adventure tours in fascinating pictures. The length of the movies is about 45 minutes.

3. General Information

3.1 Organization

The museum is operated by a nonprofit association, the Auto & Technik Museum e.V., which has currently 5,000 members from all over the world. The museum is financed exclusively by membership fees, donations, and the admission fees. All surplus funds are used for the advancement of the museum. Everyone who is interested in technology and wants to support the museums can become club member. Companies and institutions are also welcome.

3.2 Special exhibitions and meetings

Every year many special exhibitions, vehicle meetings and other events are organized in the museum. Traditional events that take place every year are the Get-together of petrol heads, the BRAZZELTAG® and the Science Fiction convention. Additionally, many clubs take advantage of the museum for the most diverse activities. Information about the event calendar is available on the website of the museum.

3.3 Arrival

The Technik Museum Speyer can easily be reached via the autobahn A 61 (Koblenz – Speyer). The museum is located in the center of Speyer, just a few minutes' walk from the cathedral. Leave the autobahn at the exits "Speyer" or "Speyer/Hockenheim" and follow the signs "Speyer" and "Dom/Museen", respectively, which will guide you directly to the extensive bus and car parking places. The museum can also easily be reached by public transport. From the main station a shuttle bus brings you directly to the premises of the museum.

3.4 Packages, accommodation and event service

A very attractive package is the Day Pass which includes the admission to the museum and to one IMAX movie. The museum also offers comfortable accommodation. Directly on the premises of the museum is the Hotel Speyer am Technik Museum which also includes a caravan site. For short trips the museum offers several packages comprising a visit to the museum and accommodation. These packages can be booked through the internet shop www.technik-museum.de/shop. In addition there are also packages for tour groups and tour operators. For functions of all kinds and sizes a professional event service is available.

3.5 Opening hours, contact information and admission fees

www.technik-museum.de

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