



Things worth knowing about the Technik Museum Sinsheim Speyer



The Technik Museum Sinsheim is the only museum in the world in which the only two supersonic aircraft ever flying in regular service can be visited side by side.



The Technik Museum Speyer houses the largest exhibition for manned space travel: source TMSNHSP

1. The Technik Museum Sinsheim

The history of the Technik Museum Sinsheim began in late 1980. During a meeting of technology enthusiasts the idea was born to give the public access to all the gems of technological history that had been restored, often in years of painstaking attention to detail. A museum club was founded and but few months later the Technik Museum Sinsheim opened its doors for the first time on 6 May 1981. From the beginning the museum was a great success and the ever increasing number of visitors made it possible to quickly extend the exhibition area from the initial 5,000 m² to more than 30,000 m². Besides many other vintage cars from all eras of automobile history and many other exhibit items the Technik Museum Sinsheim today presents the largest private collection of vintage Maybach, supercharged Mercedes, and Bugatti automobiles in Germany, several hundred motorcycles, aircraft, record vehicles, racing and sports cars, locomotives, military and utility cars, engines and much more.

In 1999 the museum club managed to acquire a Russian Tupolev Tu-144 supersonic passenger aircraft. In a spectacular transport, the aircraft was transported from Moscow to Sinsheim over land and sea and mounted in starting position on the roof of one of the museum halls in early 2001. Enough room was left for the only other supersonic passenger aircraft ever built, the French/British Concorde, which at that time was still in service. Only four years later this gap could be filled when a Concorde was donated to the museum by Air France after the retirement of their Concorde fleet. The Technik Museum Sinsheim is the only museum in the world in which the only two supersonic aircraft ever flying in regular service can be visited side by side.

Over the last three decades Technik Museum Sinsheim has been displaying over 3.000 exhibits throughout the world of technology and they are constantly increasing. Therefore, it was only a

matter of time until the capacity limit was reached – new facilities were needed. The Association's Board of Directors agreed on an extension- the so called Hall 3. The new museum hall is the venue for regularly changing special exhibitions. The current focus is on 'Fascination Tuning - VW vs Opel', an exhibition that brings the world of vehicle tuning to life. Technical innovation, individuality and passion come together here - a scene in which every vehicle bears a personal signature. The exhibition will remain dynamic until 13 September 2026: changing exhibits and special events ensure that there is always something new to discover.

In April/May 2023, the Technik Museen Sinsheim Speyer shared a very special event with the public: From Kiel through the North Sea, the Netherlands and across the Rhine to Speyer - the exciting journey of the decommissioned Class 206 submarine to its temporary accommodation in the cathedral city took three weeks. Arrangements were made until the summer of 2024 to ensure its onward transport to Sinsheim. Then it set off on 30 June 2024: on the water, on the road, tilted and righted, through narrow villages, over railway tracks and motorway and through the winding roads of the Kraichgau region - the U17 journey took four weeks until the metal colossus reached its final destination, the Technik Museum Sinsheim. People followed the journey on site and via livestream with great interest. Thousands flocked to the respective arrival points to see the submarine up close; they lined the riverside roads or accompanied the low-loader for kilometres. The new exhibit will be open to the public from spring 2025.

2. The IMAX 3D Cinema at the Technik Museum Sinsheim

In 1996, the Technik Museum Sinsheim created a unique film experience with the IMAX 3D large format movie theater. Never before had it been possible to admire 3D movies that even began to compare to this quality on a huge screen. Since then IMAX films have been casting a spell on over 5 million visitors in Sinsheim. In 2016, the IMAX 3D Sinsheim made history again – today it presents the brand new and revolutionary IMAX 4k laser technology as one of the first movie theaters worldwide.

The centerpiece of the new technology are two huge laser projectors which are projecting 2D- as well as 3D-films in a digital 4k quality onto a house-high screen. To be able to appreciate the true significance of these specifications you have to watch an IMAX film on a screen of this type. This innovative, dual 4k laser projection system by IMAX is providing the audience with the sharpest, brightest and clearest digital images of all times. In spite of the gigantic image size, the laser technology is accomplishing a brilliance and image sharpness surpassing the classical film technology by far. The system was newly developed from scratch and besides the

revolutionary laser projection system also includes a number of new, in-house developed IMAX technologies to present the viewer with an absolutely breath-taking experience.

The also completely new 12-channel surround-sound system with subbass, which makes the action of the film physically perceptible, is turning the IMAX experience into an adventure for all senses. The new system is producing even more power and precision than the previous one and provides an ultimate sound experience. The house-high loudspeaker system has been extended from six channels plus sub-bass to twelve channels, and is offering two additional side-speakers as well as four new overhead speakers. This way it is possible to position the film sound at any given location in the theater and it is thus possible to achieve an optimal listening experience for each and any visitor in the entire house. Owing to laser adjusted loudspeakers, calibration on a daily basis and noncompressed soundtracks, specifically mastered for IMAX, the audio experience in the IMAX 3D Cinema is also achieving a new dimension. During the day the IMAX 3D Cinema at the Museum Sinsheim is showing spectacular 3D-documentations on an hourly alternating basis, and as evening entertainment selected Hollywood blockbusters in 2D and 3D. For further information and a list of current films, please visit the website www.imax-laser-sinsheim.de

3. The Technik Museum Speyer

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 m² indoor space and over 150,000 m² outdoor area. Colourful events and changing special exhibitions round off the range of exhibitions at the Technik Museum Speyer. Until 29 February 2024, visitors will have the opportunity to experience a piece of French history in the new special exhibition "Les Français - People, Motors and Architecture". history in the centre of the cathedral city. "Les Français" invites you to find out more about everyday life in the city occupied at the time, take a look at French automotive technology and immerse yourself in the history of the museum site. 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 propellerdriven 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. Two other large exhibit items which have complemented the exhibitions in Speyer during the year 2011 are the rescue cruiser John T. Essberger of the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service and a Transall transport aircraft of the German air force.

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 m² 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 m². 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 Agency 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 of 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 exhibition - a Münch exhibition comprising 26 specimens of the legendary "Mammut" from the workshop of the German motorcycle constructor Friedel Münch.

4. The IMAX DOME movie at the Technik Museum Speyer

The IMAX DOME movie at the Technik Museum Speyer, the only movie theater of this kind in Germany, opened in 1997. Contrary to other movies, 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 m². 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 subbass 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.

5. General Information about both museums

5.1 Organization

With over 200,000 m² exhibition space, and over 6,000 exhibit items the Technology Museums Sinsheim Speyer are the largest privately operated technology museums in Europe. During the last six years the museums were visited by 1 to 1.5 million people each year. The museums are operated by a non profit making association, the Auto & Technik Museum e.V., which has currently 5,000 members from all over the world. The museums are financed exclusively by membership fees, donations, and the admission fees. All surplus funds are used for the advancement of the museums. Everyone who is interested in technology and wants to support the museums can become club member. Companies and institutions are also welcome.

5.2 Special exhibitions and meetings

Every year many special exhibitions, vehicle meetings and other events are organized in the museums. Traditional events that take place every year are, e.g., the E-Mobility Day, the Ostalgia Convention, the US car meeting, and the motorcycle weekend at the Technik Museum Sinsheim and the Barrel Organ Serenade, the Science Fiction Convention and the BRAZZELTAG® at Technik Museum Speyer. Additionally, many clubs take advantage of the museums for the most diverse activities. Information about the event calendar is available on the website of the museums.

5.3 Arrival

Both museums can easily be reached by car or public transport. The Technik Museum Sinsheim is located directly at the autobahn A6 between the cities of Mannheim and Heilbronn. Leave the autobahn at exit 33b Sinsheim-Süd and follow the signs which will guide you directly to the free car and bus parking places. The museum can also easily be reached by public transport. Just a few minutes' walk away from the museum is the train station "Museum/Arena" at the railway route Heilbronn-Heidelberg. There is also a bus stop for the Sinsheim city bus directly at the museum.

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.

5.4 Packages, accommodation and event service

A very attractive package is the Day Pass which includes the admission to one of the museums and to one IMAX movie. With the 2 Day Pass you can visit both museums and both IMAX movie theaters. The museums also offer comfortable accommodation. Directly next to the Technik Museum Sinsheim is the four-star Hotel Sinsheim.

In Speyer you can stay overnight in the Hotel Speyer am Technik Museum directly on the premises of the museum. The Hotel Speyer also includes a caravan site. For short trips the museums offer 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.

5.5 Opening hours, contact information and admission fees

www.technik-museum.de

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