

Strasbourg, 5 May 2025

The Zoological Museum will be opening its doors in September 2025

Strasbourg Zoological Museum will be welcoming the public for European Heritage Days. It will open its doors on Friday 19 September 2025 at 2pm and entry will be free of charge during the festive weekend of 19, 20 and 21 September. After six years of renovation, the museum has been transformed in order to present a completely renewed display based on its extensive collection.

Located at the heart of the city on the University campus, the Zoological Museum has become a mediation space open to major societal issues, particularly environmental ones, and explores the evolving place of humans in the animal world through its heritage collection.

Within the expanded and renovated space, the museum will offer its audience a journey to the heart of the diversity of living things; the tour will take visitors on a journey to discover the history of the natural sciences and the functioning of ecosystems, aided by a reinforced presence of oral guides and multimedia and interactive devices. This exhibit will be complemented by temporary exhibitions and a rich cultural programme, as well as access to educational workshops and a specialised bookshop.

Through such renovation, the institution is tackling the challenges of a 21st-century museum. Its project focuses on a broader approach: an openness to social issues by emphasising our relationship with our environment and the inclusion of oral spaces conducive to discussion throughout the exhibit; an openness to the public by making the building more accessible and improving visitor conditions; an openness to the city and the university campus, and an openness to the world of research in order to anchor the content in current scientific knowledge and provide a forum for interaction with the scientific community.

The renovation of the Zoological Museum is part of a nationwide renovation project initiated by the reopening of the Bordeaux Museum in 2019 and the Orléans Biodiversity and Environment Museum in 2021. These venues now deal with similar scientific issues which both provide insights and enable their visitors to make informed choices about the environmental and societal concerns of the early 21st century. Jointly led by the City and the University of Strasbourg, renovation has resulted in:

- a more welcoming entrance and façade featuring large glass doors,
- a redesign featuring new spaces for the collection and the public,
- a redesigned circuit with a clear narrative development in order to facilitate the visitor experience,
- improved visitor comfort,
- better accessibility for as many people as possible,
- fire safety compliance,
- optimal conservation conditions for the collection both in storage areas and exhibition spaces,
- improved energy efficiency of the building.

The Zoological Museum is opening its doors during European Heritage Days: a unique weekend to discover the place, with free admission for the occasion. A unique and festive programme will accompany this opening in the cultural district known as the Jardin des Sciences.

KEY NUMBERS AND DATES

- Closure of the Zoological Museum: September 2019
- Relocation of the collection: May to October 2021
- Start of renovation: autumn 2021
- Museum reopening: September 2025
- Total budget: €17.117 million
- 1.2 million specimens
- 2000 m² exhibiting space
- 800 m² adjacent space: entrance area, library, educational space, children's space, picnic area, cloakrooms, shop.
- 1800 m² of work areas for teams and students: archaeozoology laboratory, specimen preparation rooms, workspaces, classrooms and practical work areas for the Faculty of Life Sciences.

PROJECT LEADERS

As part of Operation Campus, teams from City of Strasbourg Museums and the University of Strasbourg's Jardin des Sciences worked together on the renovation of the Zoological Museum, with operational management entrusted to the University of Strasbourg's Estate Management Service. The Zoological Museum's uniqueness lies in its historically significant role within a dual municipal and university framework.

City of Strasbourg Museums

The Strasbourg Zoological Museum, which has been designated as a "Musée de France", is a museum directly managed by the City of Strasbourg and is part of its network of municipal museums. It thus benefits from the scope and proximity of the ten other museum institutions supported by the City and the dynamic programming that emanates from them. Its inclusion within this network reflects the municipality's historical commitment to its scientific and natural heritage, as underlined by such renovation. The network's shared teams—communication, publications, collection documentation, works management, education department, budget management, and human resources—have been involved in this renovation project alongside the museum team. The renovation of the Zoological Museum, carried out in conjunction with the University of Strasbourg, is one of the ambitious projects led by City of Strasbourg Museums with the aim of strengthening its position as a leading player in the city's environmental education policy, in partnership with other relevant community agencies.

University of Strasbourg's Jardin des Sciences

The University of Strasbourg is aware of its responsibilities and societal impact as a player in the production and transmission of knowledge and for many years has been developing its openness to the wider community in a variety of ways, notably through the implementation of a policy of cultural mediation of knowledge led by the Jardin des Sciences. The renovation of the Zoological Museum is part of the vast Operation Campus programme, a multi-year project initiated in 2009 and funded by the State and local authorities, which aimed to redevelop, modernise, and expand the University of Strasbourg's central campuses. It has notably contributed to the creation of a cultural district at the heart of the historic campus managed by the University's Jardin des Sciences, starting with the new Planetarium in 2023, which includes several remarkable heritage complexes, museum structures, and gardens.

Museum governance

As part of the support for the museum's renovation, a new agreement between the City and the University was signed, aimed at strengthening ties between the museum management, the museum team, and the Jardin des Sciences, and devising a new method of governance. The objective is not only to mobilise the wealth of resources and expertise of all the stakeholders involved for the benefit of the renovated museum, but also to strengthen ties with research in

various fields of knowledge, including the humanities and social sciences. These ties are central to the aims of the museum's new scientific and cultural project.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Project management:

- Estate Management Service, University of Strasbourg

Construction management:

- Architects: Freaks architecture (Paris)
- Scenography: dUCKS scéno (Paris)
- Technical design consultants: M. H. Ingénierie (Strasbourg)
- Economists: Rbeco (Schiltigheim)
- Acousticians: Peutz (Paris)
- Lighting design: Atelier H. Audibert (Paris)
- Graphic design: Formaboom (Paris)

FUNDING AND PATRONS

With the support of the partners of the Three-Year Contract, Strasbourg - Capital of Europe.

Co-financiers:

- State (within the framework of Operation Campus)
- City and Eurometropolis of Strasbourg
- University of Strasbourg
- ERDF – European Regional Development Fund
- FNADT– National Fund for Territorial Planning and Development
- Grand Est Region
- European Community of Alsace

Patrons having contributed to the restoration and enhancement of the museum's collection:

- MuteSt
- Stradim
- Strasbourg Electricity Networks
- Würth France

Total budget: €17.122 million (including tax)

The main financiers of the project are:

- State – Operation Campus	€8 770 000
- City of Strasbourg	€3 490 000
- ERDF	€1 975 000
- Eurometropolis of Strasbourg – Operation Campus	€1 500 000
- National Fund for Territorial Planning and Development (State)	€480 000
- Patrons	€372 000
- Triennial contract, Strasbourg - Capital of Europe	€315 000
- European Community of Alsace via the triennial cultural fund	€100 000
- Unistra funding	€120 000
- Grand Est Region	€100 000

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