



PRESS RELEASE

46th Munich Mineral Show 2009:

Bavarian Archaeopteryx and India's Hidden Treasures

Genuine Archaeopteryx Fossils - Under One Roof for the First Time

Munich, 6th July 2009 – precious stones, crystals and fossils from all over the world turn the New Munich Trade Fair Centre into Europe's largest treasure chamber every autumn. More than a 1,000 dealers and exhibitors from 56 nations are showcasing their most beautiful pieces from Friday 30th October (trade visitors' day) to Sunday 1st November 2009. As a trade, shopping and experience fair, as well as an international meeting point for the industry, the Munich Mineral Show attracts more than 40,000 people a year - trade visitors alongside collectors and families. They come to buy jewellery and precious stones at trade prices, experience relaxation on the Wellness Island or have a go at fossil preparation and gold panning. Several special exhibitions have been designed with the cooperation of international museums and private collectors. Highlight for this year: a new fossil experience garden with several fossils of the Archaeopteryx, which have never been seen together before.

Special Exhibition Fossil Park: Fossilised Witnesses of the Primeval World

In the Darwin Year 2009, the special paleontological exhibition at the Munich Mineral Show is dedicated to the famous natural scientist Charles Darwin. The exhibition is showcasing five of the ten existing Archaeopteryx fossils in the world. The bizarre creature with teeth, bird's feathers, claws and a dinosaur's tail is seen by scientists as a transitional link between reptiles and birds and, thus, as proof of Darwin's theory of evolution. All previously discovered Archaeopteryx fossils come from the Jurassic limestone quarries in Bavaria.

The rare fossils can be seen under one roof for the first time on the occasion of Darwin's 200th birthday - the treasures are normally well guarded at the Paläontologisches Museum Munich, the Bürgermeister-Müller-Museum Solnhofen and the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in the USA. A hall set up as a fossil experience garden



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forms the right setting for the valuable loans, which authentically portrays the landscape of the Jurassic period of 150 million years ago with lakes, plants and islands. Nine genuine dinosaur skulls from the Swiss dinosaur museum in Aathal supplement the exhibition. The rare skull of the "Moritz" stegosaurus is on display, as well as the "Big Al Two" allosaurus, a freestanding, eight-metre-long skeleton of the most complete predatory dinosaur in the world from the Upper Jurassic.

Special Exhibit India: Enormous Crystals and Fossilised Poetry

Whilst the new fossil park takes the visitor on a fantastic journey to the time of the earth's middle age, the large, special mineral show delves into the world of precious stones from distant India. The famous land of precious stones with centuries of history is known for the splendid jewels of the Maharajas and the monument to love, the Taj Mahal. We have the Gargoti Museum - India's first and previously only private mineral museum - for the special exhibition in the style of a Maharaja's palace. The highlights: the "Emperor of India", a turquoise, ten kilogram giant aquamarine, a solid quartz statue of the Hindu deity Ganesha, and agate pictures created by nature, which look like ferns, mosses or miniature landscapes. The dendrite agates are also called "fossilised poetry" by the donator.

Cut Treasures and Relaxation with Precious Stones

Dealers from Europe and overseas are also offering a few things to marvel at and buy. The highlights of the international mineral scene are on display in the International Mineral Pavilion, which is also known popularly as the "white temple". Renowned engravers and world-famous precious stone cutters, among them Atelier Munsteiner, are presenting their most beautiful jewellery designs and precious stone objects at the new GemWorld Munich. Visitors who feel inspired can have a design created at the Show for their own piece of jewellery - by young, up-and-coming designers and goldsmiths in the newly designed SchmuckWerk.

The popular Wellness Island offers an escape from the hubbub of the Show. Specialists discuss themes like precious stone massages and acupuncture, precious stone



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oils or the precious stone balance wellness programme and give an opportunity for hands-on treatments. Every year, almost every renowned expert in the industry uses the Show as a meeting point to exchange information on the latest developments at information stands, massage presentations and specialist talks at the Forum Minerale. The wellness area at the Munich Mineral Show has been expanded again for 2009 - visitors can now also get healing stone massages in total peace in individual cabins.

Hands-On Fun for the Whole Family

The Mineral Show offers huge fun for all the family as a hands-on and experience show with event character alongside special exhibits and sale items. The declared motto is touching with your hands, not just looking with your eyes. Natural treasures in the form of soapstone sculptures, prepared fossils or gold dust are popular 'trophies', which children love to take home with them. The new attraction this year: fossil splitting with the dinosaur expert Ben Pabst and the "Back to the Stone Age" event with famous survival trainer Thomas Patzleiner from SWR-Fernsehen.

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An Overview of the Top Themes at the Munich Mineral Show:

Fossils/Natural Treasures: Bavarian Archaeopteryx in Munich

Minerals/India: India's Hidden Treasures

Wellness/Health: Well-Being with the Power of Healing Stones

Jewellery/Precious Stones: Designs in Stone at the Mineral Show

Children/Families: Amateur Explorers on the Hunt for Natural Treasures

Alps/Hiking: Alpine Treasures - from the Mountain to the Display Case

Design/Room Design: Natural Objects - Artistically Staged

Printable images and thematic press texts can be downloaded at:

<http://www.mineralientage.de/presseservice.html>



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46th International Munich Mineral Show 2009
New Munich Trade Fair Centre – EAST Entrance, Hall A5, A6, B5, B6

GEOFA: Fri. 9am - 7pm	Friday, 30th October 09 (only trade visitors) Adult day ticket - 29 euros 3-day ticket - 38 euros
BÖRSE Fri. 9am - 7pm Sat. 9am - 6pm	Saturday, 31st October and Sunday, 1st November Adult day ticket - 12 euros Discounted day ticket - 8 euros (children 10 - 16 years, students, the disabled (from 50 %)) 2-day ticket - 18 euros Afternoon ticket from 3pm - 8 euros Children under 10 years: entry free Groups: discount of 20 % for 10 people or more Order form at www.mineralientage.de , actual ticket requirements will be settled by the Mineral Show office. Show catalogue (with exhibitor's directory): 28 euros Programme with lecture schedule: free

You can get more up-to-date information and picture material from:

Munich Mineral Show Press Office

c/o modem conclusa public relations gmbh

Jutastr. 5, 80636 Munich, www.modemconclusa.de

Contact: Sandra Wilcken, telephone: +49 (0)89 746308-35

Fax: +49 (0)89 1 897 9198, wilcken@modemconclusa.de