

Nature conservation classroom



Proteus anguinus

Nature is being constantly threatened by us, humans, and our conduct. For our industrial and agricultural activities and construction of roads we need increasingly more space, which is the reason why nature is being forced into a constant "retreat". Owing to the polluted waters and air and to the destroyed protective ozone layer, living beings are becoming extinct even in the untouched wilderness. Through the research into the Slovenian animal and plant life, the experts are trying to pinpoint the remaining areas of great natural diversity, which should by all means be preserved.



Dark form of *Proteus anguinus*

A look into the future



The new building of the Slovenian Museum of Natural History in the Biological Centre in Ljubljana

The museum building on Prešernova Street houses two state museums: the Slovenian Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of Slovenia. The new construction will solve the spatial problems of both, and on the new premises the Slovenian Museum of Natural History will carry out its mission even to a greater satisfaction of us all.



PRIRODOSLOVNI MUZEJ SLOVENIJE

Prešernova 20, p.p. 290, SI-1001 Ljubljana

Exhibition collections: Muzejska 1, 1000 Ljubljana

For any further information please contact:

Phone: + 386 1 241 09 40

Fax: + 386 1 241 09 53

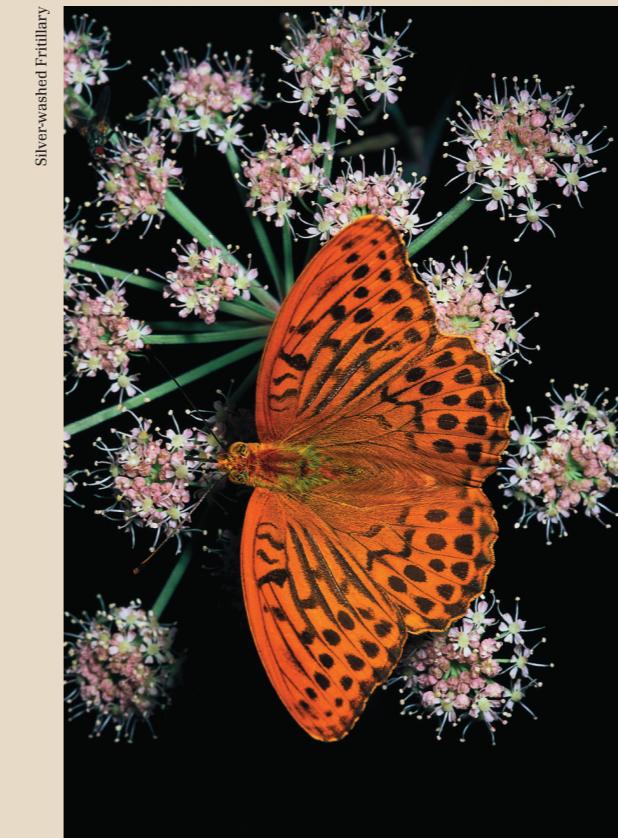
e-mail: uprava@pms-lj.si

website: www2.pms-lj.si

The Museum's opening hours: 10.00 - 18.00 hrs weekdays
Thursday 10.00 - 20.00 hrs

Guided tours: For groups announcing their arrival in advance, guided tours of all permanent collections and periodic exhibitions can be organised. Contact person: Ljerka Trampuž (01 241 09 62).

Text and photographs: employees of the Slovenian Museum of Natural History
English translation: Henrik Ciglic, Layout: Mojca Turk, Print: Trajanus, Kranj, 2007
Circulation: 2000 copies



Silver-washed Fritillary

Slovenian Museum of Natural History

Treasury of biodiversity and geological heritage

Central natural history museum in Slovenia

The oldest museum in Slovenia

Slovenian Museum of Natural History

was founded, by the decision of Carniolan States, on October 15th 1821 as a Provincial Museum. The Austrian government, however, decreed this decision only as late as on June 8th 1826. To the new museum it ceded, without indemnity, the rich collection of minerals and books belonging to Baron Žiga Zois, the renowned Slovene patron of literature and arts. Thus the Baron's sincere wish for his collection to become the foundation of a domestic museum was fulfilled. The founding collections of the Carniolan Provincial Museum were also the assemblage of insects belonging to Ferdinand Schmidt and the collection of conches belonging to Count Hohenwart.



Amethyst

Murex brandaris

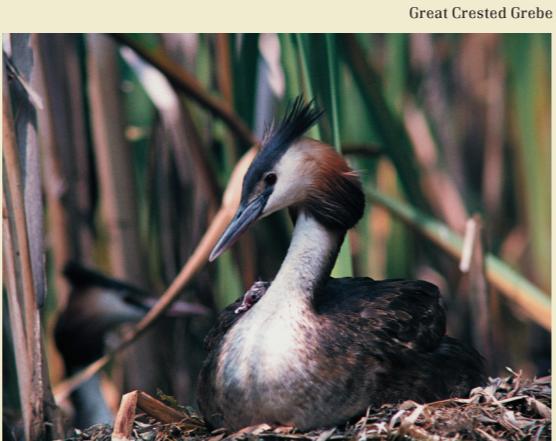


"Carniolan" snail

The study collections of the Museum of Natural History are a true treasury of biodiversity, while the purpose of the exhibition collections is to educate the visitors and acquaint them with living and non-living nature. The exhibition premises are situated on the second floor of the Museum. Permanent exhibitions comprise a number of collections, including the **geological-palaeontological** assemblage, its central exhibit being the almost complete mammoth's skeleton. Also on display is the permanent **collection of fishes, reptiles and various vertebrates' skeletons**.



Mammoth's skeleton



Great Crested Grebe



Marble Trout



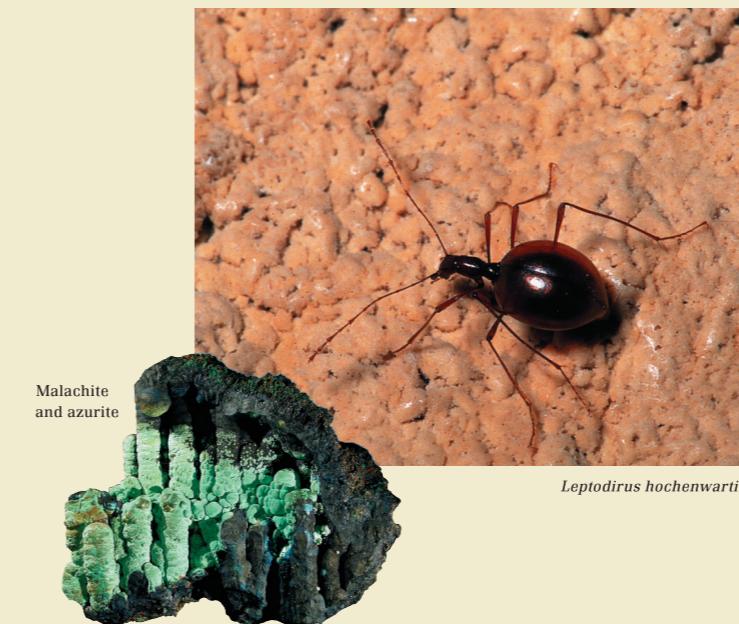
Brown Bear



Black-veined white

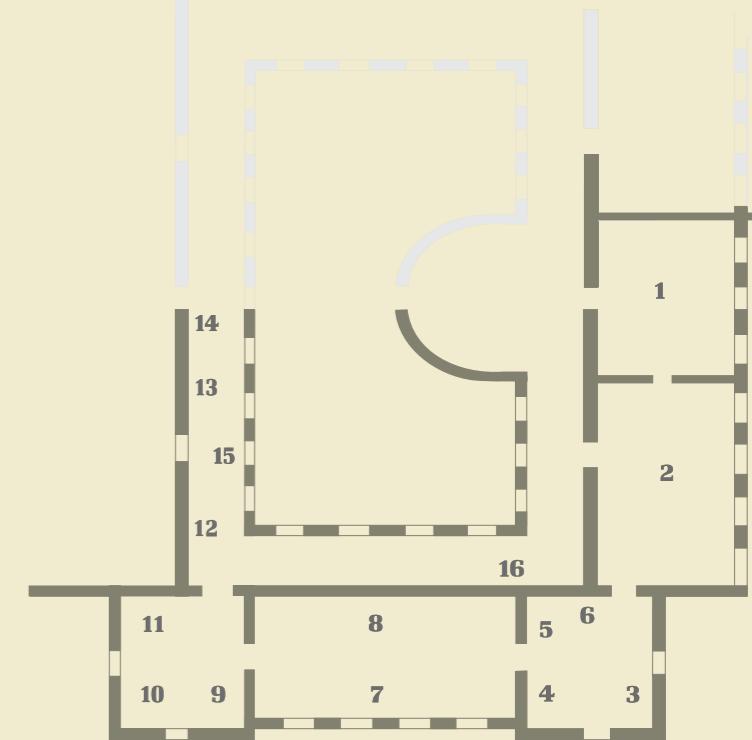
The plant and animal world of the forests, marshes and mountains is presented in the **forest, marsh and Alpine dioramas**. The Museum also exhibits one of the Slovenian natural treasures - the perennibranchiate amphibian *Proteus anguinus* - and other cave animals. **Hohenwart's**

collection of conches (shells of sea mollusks) is part of the Museum's founding collections. The botanical display case presents some of the older **herbarium collections**, including the oldest herbarium in Slovenia, i.e. the collection of Janez Krstnik Flysser (1696). Also exhibited is part of the wood collection put on display during the Museum's festive opening in 1831. The **collection of Ferdinand Schmidt's insects** is amongst the oldest in the Museum, the most interesting specimens among them being the blind cave beetles *Leptodirus hochenwarti*, described as the first cave insects in the world. The making of the insect collection shows different methods of insect collecting in nature and laboratory work. In **Zois's collection of minerals**, the latter are arranged according to the present classification based on their inner structure. Among them is the mineral zoisite, called after Baron Žiga Zois. Apart from the permanent display case with Slovenian minerals, two Biedermeier wooden tables coated with lamellae from Palnstorff's collection of minerals and rocks are also on display.



Malachite and azurite

Leptodirus hochenwarti



The scheme of premises:

- Geological-palaeontological hall 1
- Periodic exhibitions 2
- Collection of sea fishes 3
- Collection of various vertebrates' skeletons 4
- Collection of reptiles 5
- Collection of freshwater fishes 6
- Collection of birds 7
- Forest diorama 8
- Marsh diorama 9
- Alpine diorama 10
- Proteus anguinus 11
- Hohenwart's collection of conches 12
- Older herbarium collections 13
- Collection of Ferdinand Schmidt's insects 14
- The making of the collection of insects 15
- Zois's collection of minerals 16