

= Croatian Natural History Museum =

The Croatian Natural History Museum (Croatian : Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej) is the oldest and biggest natural history museum and the main body for natural history research , preservation and collection in Croatia . Located on Dimitrije Demeter Street in Gornji Grad , one of the oldest neighbourhoods of the Croatian capital Zagreb , it owns one of the biggest museum collections in Croatia , with over 2 million artefacts , including over 1 @.@ 1 million animal specimens . It was founded in 1846 as the " National Museum " . The National Museum was later split up into five museums , three of which were in 1986 merged as departments of the newly named Croatian Natural History Museum . The museum contains a large scientific library open to the public , and publishes the first Croatian natural history scientific journal , *Natura Croatica* .

The permanent display of the Croatian Natural History Museum consists of mineralogical , petrographical and zoological collections , as well as two permanent exhibits in the atrium : the Rock Map of Croatia and the Geological Pole . It is home to the remains of the Neanderthal from Krapina .

= = History = =

The history of the Croatian Natural History Museum begins with the founding of the so @-@ called " National Museum " (Narodni muzej) on 10 September 1846 , the first museum for historic and pre @-@ historic objects related to Croatia . In 1867 , it was moved to its current address . The National Museum grew and was split into five new museums by the end of the 19th century . Three of them covered natural history : the Croatian National Zoological Museum (Hrvatski narodni zoolo?ki muzej) , the Geological ? Palaeontological Museum (Geolo?ko @-@ paleontolo?ki muzej) and the Mineralogical ? Petrographic Museum (Mineralo?ko @-@ petrografski muzej) . All three were housed in the same building on Demeter Street 1 , and , in 1986 , united into the Croatian Natural History Museum .

The museum 's current building was earlier home to Amadeo 's theatre , the first theatre in Zagreb . Formed in 1797 by Antal Amade de Varkony , the prefect of Zagreb County , it operated until 1834 . In 2000 , Amadeo 's theatre was revived as a yearly summer series of theatrical plays entitled *Scena Amadeo* (" Amadeo Scene ") held in the museum atrium .

= = Library = =

The museum is home to a large scientific library open to the public . Its oldest books were printed in 17th @-@ century Italy , and includes works by Ulisse Aldrovandi , Niccolò Gualtieri and Carl Linné . The library was founded in 1868 by a newly appointed museum director , Spiridon Brusina . Starting from a meager corpus acquired from the National Library , including only three books on zoology , Brusina traveled throughout then @-@ Austria @-@ Hungary in order to acquire books . In 1875 , the museum acquired the large library and natural history collection of Francesco Lanza , a physician and archaeologist from Split , Croatia . Brusina retired in 1901 , reporting a collection 1 @, @ 800 works in 3 @, @ 948 volumes three years earlier . In 1928 , it was recorded that the library held 5 @, @ 838 books in 9 @, @ 901 volumes . As the library was not professionally maintained during the Croatian War of Independence or inventoried since , it is not known how many titles it holds . A 1999 estimate is 30 @, @ 000 volumes and 13 @, @ 100 monographs .

= = Journals = =

In 1885 , Brusina led a successful initiative to publish *The Journal of the Croatian Natural History Society* (Glasnik Hrvatskoga naravoslovnoga dru?tva) . The journal is published since 1972 under the title *Periodicum biologorum* , and focuses on biology and biomedicine , forestry and biotechnology . In 1992 , the museum began publishing *Natura Croatica* , a peer @-@ reviewed biological and geological academic journal . The natural history journal was the first of its kind in

Croatia , despite the existence of seven natural history museums . The journal is published quarterly in English , and reviewed by both Croatian and foreign scholars .

= = Holdings = =

The museum is divided into Mineralogical ? Petrographical , Geological ? Palaeontological , Zoological and Botanical Departments . The first three are successors to the National Museum 's 19th @-@ century offspring museums , while the Botanical Department was established in 1990 .

The museum 's holdings number over 2 million rocks , minerals , fossils , and other artefacts collected all over the country . The zoological collection consists of 1 @,@ 135 @,@ 000 animal specimens , including a tissue bank for DNA analysis . It also holds the remains of the Neanderthal man found near Krapina by Dragutin Gorjanovi? @-@ Kramberger , a former director of the National Museum . The original remains are held in the museum 's vault , while a replica is being exhibited in the Krapina museum .

The museum 's permanent display encompasses mineralogical and petrographical collections , as well as a collection of animals , the bulk of which dates back to the 19th century . The zoological collection is on the second floor of the museum . It includes the skeleton of a Mediterranean monk seal , a basking shark native to the Adriatic Sea and an Atlantic puffin , a bird today native to the Arctic area , which is believed to have nested in the Adriatic in the 19th century .

The mineralogical and petrographical collections are divided into three exhibitions . " From a Collection to a Museum " (Od zbirke do muzeja) showcases the work of Croatian mineralogists and petrographers thorough history , including a geological map of Moslava?ka gora in central Croatia by Ljudevit Vukotinovi? , as well as the work of ?uro Pilar , one of the first Croatian academic geologists . " The Empire of Minerals " (Carstvo minerala) displays a collection of minerals assembled by location of discovery , including collections of agate from Lepoglava and opal , gemstones rare in Croatia . " Rocky Planet Earth " (Stjenoviti planet Zemlja) is organized by rock types , and also contains meteorites , lava from Vesuvius and speleothems . In 2014 , the exhibitions were made accessible to blind people .

The atrium of the museum contains two exhibits : the Rock Map of Croatia (Kamenospisna karta Hrvatske) and the Geological Pole (Geolo?ki stup) . The Rock Map of Croatia is a mosaic map assembled from various pieces of rock found in Croatia into the country 's shape .

= = Exhibitions = =

Exhibitions at the Croatian Natural History Museum have included " Dormice : in Biology and the Kitchen " and " Lion 's Pit " , exhibiting the remains of a cave lion (Panthera leo spelaea) , found deep in Vrtare Male , a pit cave near Dramalj , Croatia . With a body length of 3 @.@ 6 metres (12 ft) , the lion was at the time of discovery claimed to be one of the biggest found in the world thus far . Another notable exhibition displayed the reconstruction of a Megalodon , an extinct giant shark found in the plains of northern Croatia , where the Paratethys ocean once stood . The museum held the first moss animal exhibition in the world in 2006 , entitled " Neptune 's Lace " . In 2009 , visitors had the opportunity to view crocodile fossils from the island Pag , while eighty live snakes owned by the Slovenian breeder Ale? Mlinar were exhibited in 2013 .

The museum takes part in the Croatian Museum Night (No? muzeja) , an annual event whereby the public is allowed free entrance to many museums in Croatia during one night in the year . In the 2014 event , the museum was visited by more than 11 @,@ 000 people .