Messel Pit Treasures

Fossils from the Messel Pit are as precious as rare diamonds. And what setting could be more appropriate for such gems than a treasure chamber? Here, the unique beauty of these fossil jewels is displayed to full advantage. Take a step closer, and prepare to be fascinated by the perfect preservation, the detail and the aesthetic beauty of these skeleton finds of former living creatures from a distant time and a distant world!

One of the great celebrities here on display is IDA, the fossil of a young, female basal primate. The history of her discovery and the research surrounding the find made waves around the world.

Treasure chamber

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The Time and Messel Worlds visitor centre is open all year round except for 23rd - 26th Dec; 30th - 31st Dec, and 1st Jan. The gate to the visitor centre premises is locked each evening at 6pm.

Arrival by bus:
daily bus line U (Darmstadt-Kranichstein-Messel); Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, bus line OF 96

Arrival by train:
Messel train station, 15 mins walk along Roßdörfer Street

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**UNESCO World Heritage Messel Pit**

**Range of offers**

**GM-A1**  
Visitor centre guided tour  
Looking behind the scenes  
(1-hr professional guided tour through the themed rooms)

**GM-A**  
**Standard offer**  
GM-A1: Guided tour of the visitor centre  
GM-A2: Messel Pit introductory tour: First time travel through Messel Pit (1 hour)  
GM-A3: Pit hike: Following the crocodile trail (2 hrs, also available as group event)

**GM-B**  
**Focus events**  
GM-B1: Research highlights: You’re an explorer! (3 hrs, also available as group event)  
GM-B2: Excavation impressions: Watching the scientists at work (2 hrs)

**GM-C**  
**Children and family offers**  
GM-C1: Family guided tour: Discovering the world heritage together (2 hrs, also available as group event)  
GM-C2: Children’s birthday parties: A special day out in the UNESCO World Heritage site, with children’s safari menu (2 hrs)  
GM-C3: Children’s rainforest expedition: Following the trail to a lost world (2 1/2 hrs)

**GM-D**  
**Group offers**  
GM-D1: Pit tours: Pit walk, pit hike, research highlights, family guided tour and on request  
GM-D2: Panorama tour: looking down into Messel Pit (1 hr)  
GM-D3: Messel Pit plus Messel Museum of Fossils & Local History

**GM-F**  
**Special events**  
see annual programme of events

Guided tours available in foreign languages on request.

www.grube-messel.de

**Sturdy footwear required!**  
**No smoking.**  
Visitors are not permitted to dig or excavate.

When planning your tour, please remember that you will be descending roughly 60m into an open pit mine, and must be able to manage the same ascent at the end!  
Guided tours are held all year round, weather permitting.