

■ At the StiftsMuseum Xanten we focus on communication. In particular, communication serves as a means of bridging the gap between the world of the church's treasury and the ecclesiastical museum with the present-day. Amongst the historical exhibits visitors will find modern media stations. Audio guides are available in four languages (also for children, but only in German). Trained guides offer general tours or specialised ones on specific themes. A catalogue, a newspaper, booklets and leaflets, as well as an e-mail newsletter provide many insights into the activities of the StiftsMuseum.

www.stiftsmuseum-xanten.de



Treasures, books and history



■ StiftsMuseum Xanten
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■ Opening hours:
Tuesdays – Saturdays: 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Sundays / Bank Holidays: 11.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Closed on Mondays, 1 January, Good Friday,
24/25/31 December

■ Admission:
Adults 4,00 € | reduced price 3,00 €
Children under 18 years have free admission.

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■ The StiftsMuseum Xanten is a true treasure trove. Here objects are stored and exhibited which are of enormous value – not only because they are made of gold and silver, fine materials and produced by artists, but also because they are originals, the oldest of which are over 1,000 years old. It is the authenticity of the images, chalices, crucifixes and vestments which attracts the visitors so much. Moreover, what makes these art-works special is that they were produced for ceremonial purposes. Descriptive texts, leaflets and knowledgeable museum guides help us today to understand these historical treasures.



■ From today's point of view, and especially under mediaeval conditions, the construction of Xanten Cathedral was a huge undertaking. Construction work on the imposing Gothic church lasted for almost 300 years, from 1263 to the middle of the 16th century. The costs were immense. Since the records and deeds are retained in the archive of the Stifts-Museum, we can still learn today many details of the complex management of the church's construction. It is an exciting story! In the StiftsMuseum this history, just as the work of the craftsmen, is brought to life. An animated film rounds off the tour through the history of this site.



■ The foundation's library houses about 15,000 old books from several centuries. These include 450 priceless incunables, i.e. works from the very beginnings of printing books. Such a large historical library in such a small town as Xanten is something quite special. In order to protect the ancient books, the historical library can only be visited within the scope of guided tours. However, one can peer into it from the museum – and the finest hand-written and printed volumes are displayed in one of the museum's rooms. Moreover, illustrations show how books were produced in earlier centuries.