FRANCONIAN WAYS
En route to Cranach
In the Cranach Year 2015

EXHIBITS
EVENTS
TOURS
In 2015, the Luther Decade, with its theme of “Visual Arts and the Bible”, celebrates the 500th birthday of Lucas Cranach the Younger – a good reason for Franconia to honor the entire Cranach family of painters.

THE CRANACH FAMILY OF PAINTERS IN FRANCONIA

KRONACH - CITY OF THE FATHER

Lucas Cranach the Elder, the father of Cranach the Younger, was born in Kronach. The origins of this important family of artists lie here. Even today, the old town of Kronach is filled with medieval half-timbered buildings and structures of historical importance. An outstanding example is Rosenberg Fortress. Perched high above the city, it is considered one of the largest and most beautiful fortified castles in Germany. It houses the Franconian Gallery, a branch of the Bavarian National Museum, which displays Franconian art works from the 13th to 16th centuries. Its Cranach gallery features a range of important works from Lucas Cranach the Elder and his son.

COBURG - BEGINNING OF A COURT CAREER

In August 1506, Lucas Cranach the Elder arrived in Coburg in the retinue of Elector Frederick the Wise and his brother, John the Steadfast. The artist, who had served the Electoral court in Wittenberg since 1505 as the Duke’s official painter, came for a six-month stay at the royal hunting lodge. He resided at the Veste and accompanied the dukes in the hopes of perfecting his scenes of the hunt. Today, the Veste Coburg houses 35 paintings from Cranach and his workshop as well as an almost complete set of his printed works.

NUREMBERG - WHERE THE CRANACHS MET DÜRER

The Imperial Diet of 1524 brought Lucas Cranach the Elder to Nuremberg, accompanying his patron Elector Frederick the Wise. There Cranach met Albrecht Dürer. Similarities between the early works of Cranach and Dürer’s art have led researchers to conjecture that Cranach visited Nuremberg before he entered his employment at the court in Saxony. At this time, he may also have worked in Dürer's workshop. In 1508 in Nuremberg, Frederick the Wise issued Cranach a letters patent. From then on, he used the emblem from his coat-of-arms, a winged snake, as his signature.
Franconian Masters from the late Gothic to the Renaissance and the Way to Cranach's Art – A New Route through the Collection in the Franconian Gallery
March 1 to October 31, 2015
Franconian Gallery, Rosenberg Fortress

The Franconian Gallery is a branch of the Bavarian National Museum in which masterpieces from the late Gothic and Renaissance are displayed in 25 galleries. In 2014, the museum underwent an extensive process of modernization. The collection was rehung, new items were obtained on loan and a modern lighting system was installed to give the museum a new luster. Its Cranach gallery features works from Cranach family.

Special Exhibit from the Kronach Art Association for the Cranach Year
March 8 to June 14, 2015
Rosenberg Fortress, Fürstenbau, First Floor

Cranach 2.0. The Lucas Cranach Prize 2015 of the City of Kronach, Lutherstadt Wittenberg and the Foundation for Christian Art
July 19 to October 31, 2015
Rosenberg Fortress, Fürstenbau

The exhibit displays a selection of works from the International Lucas Cranach Prize 2015. In honor of the Cranach Year, this respected art prize will be jointly awarded by Kronach and Lutherstadt Wittenberg for the first time.

Exhibit Preview: Spring 2016

More highlights during the Cranach Year:
May 8 to 17, 2015
Cranach's “Kronach Shines”
A festival of lights in the old town of Kronach
June 26 to 28, 2015
Historical City Spectacle
A festival for friends of the Renaissance and Baroque
July 1 to August 29, 2015
Renaissance Man Faust, Renaissance Man Cranach
20 Years of the Faust Festival
Open-air theater at the Rosenberg Fortress
June 29 to July 10, 2015 and August 3 to 14, 2015
From the Cranach Workshop to the Sandstone Workshop
20 years of summer art courses with the sculptor Heinrich Schreiber
September 19 to 20, 2015
Rose and Garden Festival
Garden market, circus, live music and regional culinary specialties
Art – Religion – Politics. Images and their Roles in Changing Times. New presentation of the Coburg Cranach works in the context of art from the late 15th to the early 17th century
Art Collection of the Veste Coburg
From March 27, 2015

The new permanent collection focuses on the use of images at the end of the late Middle Ages and new themes which emerged through the rise of Humanism, the Reformation and through cultural transfer at the beginning of the 16th century. It illustrates the change in motifs and their tradition, gives examples of the function of portraits among the nobility and the bourgeoisie and also shows works which reflect a change in power. Modern media allow visitors to deepen their knowledge; a media installation in the Größen Hofstube brings the highlights of Cranach's work in the Veste to mind.

Cranach’s Prints
New Narratives in the Sign of the Snake
Art Collection of the Veste Coburg
March 27 to May 31, 2015

In the work of Lucas Cranach and his workshop, graphics played for a time a very important role as a testing ground for new forms of expression. Dramatic gestures and unconventional motifs characterize his work. A new visual narrative is reflected in the depiction of landscapes. With the consistent use of the snake signature and the coat-of-arms of his employer, the Elector of Saxony, the Cranach workshop ushered in a new capital of highly modern expression of “corporate identity”. Cranach's graphics – and Coburg possesses some rare examples – were important in forming Luther’s “image”. The exhibit also focuses on the graphics of Cranach the Younger. Printed in small quantities at the time they were created, they lived on until the 17th century as reprints. In his Reformation paintings, Cranach the Younger developed the full-figure depiction into the standard form for a prestige portrait. He thereby carried the pictorial propaganda strife of the Reformation into the second half of the 16th century.

The Dark Side of the Renaissance
Bizarrerie in the Context of 16th Century Italian Prints
Art Collection of the Veste Coburg
June 25 to September 12, 2015

A witches' sabbath, bizarre monsters and macabre-acting skeletons don't seem to fit into the familiar imagery of the Renaissance. For the first time, this exhibit addresses the less-known dark side of the Renaissance. It shows that this phenomenon is not only a continuation of medieval ideas, but makes clear how new impulses result in out-of-the-ordinary pictorial creations. With this unusual theme, the exhibit contributes to the understanding of the development of art south of the Alps during the time of the Cranach family.
Between Venus and Luther: Cranach's Media of Temptation
Presentation in the permanent exhibit: “Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment”
Germanisches Nationalmuseum
May 21, 2015 to May 22, 2016

The Reformation and iconoclasm made the employment situation of artists dramatically more difficult. Customers disappeared; certain subjects for paintings were no longer in demand. Only those who could cope with the new situation were successful. Lucas Cranach was an artist that masterfully managed this transition. He operated the most successful painting workshop of the 16th century in the German-speaking world. Through skillful adaptation to new market conditions his artistic production was spared from the economic slump. With deliberately staged and positioned works, Cranach reacted with bold business acumen to modified marketing opportunities. Variation and reproduction of individual images – which became the “branded products” of his workshop – were the basis of his success. The presentation in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum clearly depicts Cranach’s artistic genius and his virtuosity in managing the image as a new form of mass media. It includes almost 25 paintings and 30 printed works and lets visitors discover how images became both advertising material and a media of temptation.

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg is the largest museum of cultural history in the German-speaking world and one of the most important museums on the globe. Perhaps more than any other museum, it is able to make tangible the work of extraordinary artists such as Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Dürer – and themes such as seduction and propaganda – in the context of the cultural history of their times.

Nuremberg was one of the key centers of the Reformation in Germany and was the very first Free Imperial City to embrace Martin Luther's teachings – as early as 1525. As a center of humanism and with more than 20 printing houses, Nuremberg was – alongside Strasbourg, Augsburg and Cologne – one of the most important printing centers in the Holy Roman Empire. As such, it was an important driver of the Reformation movement. This fits Luther's assessment of the “media capital” Nuremberg, which he called the “eye and ear of Germany, which hears and sees all.”

Media Paper – A Nuremberg Invention
Museum of Industrial Culture
Beginning of March to September 30, 2015

The Eye and Ear of Germany
Nuremberg and the Reformation
City Museum Fembohaus
Beginning of May to October 31, 2015
Through KRONACH

Morning:

Visit the imposing Rosenberg Fortress, one of the largest and best preserved fortifications in Germany. During a tour, discover underground passages, bastions and towers and, afterwards, visit the Franconian Gallery, the branch of the Bavaria National Museum which is housed in the Rosenberg Fortress. Recently renovated, the Old Masters of the Franconian Gothic and Renaissance shine in a new light. In addition to work from Tilman Riemenschneider and Dürer pupils such as Hans von Kulmbach, there are many Cranach paintings to be seen. These will naturally be a focus of tours during the Cranach Year.

When your tours are over, “Bastion Marie”, the romantic restaurant in the fortress – with a wonderful beer garden – will welcome you. Enjoy Franconian regional delights: Kronach beer and bratwurst are a must!

Afternoon:

Follow the traces of the Cranach family of painters through the Old Town of Kronach with its more than 1000-year history. The “Upper Old Town” in its entirety is listed as an historic ensemble. It is a treasure of Franconian half-timbered houses and many outstanding historical buildings, such as the city's St. John's parish church, which has one of the most beautiful Gothic portals in northern Bavaria.

Special Recommendation:

Book a specialty-themed tour through the Old Town of Kronach and learn more than just the history of the city. During “We love 'Bratwöscht' and Beer”, you'll hear about Kronach's culinary traditions. Learn about the life of boaters, “On the Trail of the 'Flößer'”. Or experience the interesting history of women during the tour “Witches and Heroines”. The Lucas Cranach Workshop also invites you to experience many interesting events about Cranach.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR CRANACH TOUR

Through COBURG

Morning:

During a two-hour tour you’ll experience the historical Old Town of Coburg. On the market square, discover the majestic “Stadthaus” in late Renaissance style, the City Hall with its distinctive oriel and mansard roof and personalities from Coburg.

Continue on to the “Münzmeisterhaus”, one of the first Gothic buildings in the city, and enjoy the interior of the Church of St. Moritz. This dates back to the 14th century and here you’ll get insight into the history of Coburg. The noble part of town then follows, with a look at the Ehrenburg Palace, court gardens, the former court theater and the Palais Edinburg.

Immerse yourself in the world of nobility during a tour through the Ehrenburg Palace, with its majestic rooms and galleries. The palace was built as a city residence for the Dukes of Coburg in 1543.

Afterwards, strengthen yourself for a busy afternoon with a local bratwurst on the market square or at one of the many restaurants serving traditional local meals.

Afternoon:

The Veste Coburg is located high above the city and is the ancestral home of the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. After a tour through the courtyards of the castle complex, you can visit the Art Collection of Veste Coburg and its historical rooms (see: exhibits and events).

Marvel at the Fürstenbau, which was built in 1910 as a home for Duke Carl Eduard of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The weapons collection is also fascinating, as well as the collection of prints and drawings, the sculpture gallery and many paintings, including works from Dürer and Lucas Cranach the Elder.

Special Recommendation:

Father and son Cranach were – as entrepreneurs, members of the city council and heads of a painters’ workshop that often worked for the court – especially important parts of the Wittenberg network. They masterfully presented both the dynastic self-confidence of the Electors of Saxony and new Protestant beliefs. An excellent demonstration of this can be found in magnificently illustrated books that were once part of the State Library of Coburg: A three-volume chronicle of the House of Saxony, commissioned by Fredrick the Wise and written by Georg Spalatin and one of the earliest printings of the Luther Bible. These will be exhibited in “Book, Image and Faith – Luther, Cranach, Spalatin” at the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR CRANACH TOUR

Through NUREMBERG

Morning:

The tour begins at the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, which – in its permanent collection “Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment – displays more than 25 paintings and 30 prints from the Cranachs set in a context with their contemporaries.

On your way through the Old Town, a visit to the Church of St. Sebald is worthwhile. This place of worship was Albrecht Dürer’s parish church: He was baptized here in 1471, married here in 1494 and regularly attended service here, making contacts which were important for his work.

Afternoon:

Nearby, you’ll find the Albrecht Dürer House. It is not only one of the few surviving homes from Nuremberg's prime, but also the only artist's home of the 16th century in northern Europe.

Just around the corner is the Art Bunker. In medieval cellars cut in the rocky hill under Nuremberg's Imperial Castle, a unique art storage depot was created during World War II. There, protected by more than 24 meters of stone, the most important art treasures of Nuremberg survived the hail of bombs during the war.

At the end of your journey awaits the Imperial Castle, emblem of the city and symbol of more than 950 years of history.

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Special Recommendation:

“A Creative Look at Cranach”

Invite your friends to the Germanisches Nationalmuseum to look at Cranach's paintings from a totally new perspective. Let yourself be enchanted by the story of a painting and then inspired by the ideas of the painter. After a lively debate in front of an original painting, you can try to be an artist yourself using acrylic paints. Don’t worry – it will work even if you’re a novice! Wouldn’t this be a great way to celebrate a birthday?
KRONACH

New Light for Old Masters – Tour through the redesigned Franconian Gallery (March to October).

Experience the Franconian Gallery hands-on and create your own art with paint and gold in the Lucas Cranach workshop (March to October).

Tour through the Rosenberg Fortress followed by a visit to the Franconian Gallery Tuesday through Sunday at 11 am, 12:30, 2 and 4 pm. (March to October).

Cranach Way – On the Trail of Lucas Cranach the Elder.
Cell phone-based audio guide through the old town of Kronach.

COBURG

The Guide Service of the Art Collection of Veste Coburg will offer a special tour, “Cranach in Coburg” on March 27, 2015.

You can also book tours on the topics “Luther in Coburg” and tours in the museum entitled “Princely Power and the Courtly Life” and “Religious Change: Medieval Piety and the Reformation”.

If you are interested in other topics, the Guide Service would be happy to discuss them with you.

NUREMBERG

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum offers several tours about Cranach and his contemporaries: “Cranach's Masterpieces”, “Selling of Indulgences and Protestant Doctrine”, “Mr. Luther and His New Idea”, “A Creative Look at Cranach” and “Albrecht Dürer and His Time”.
Man of Sorrows, Workshop of Lucas Cranach the Elder, attributed to Lucas Cranach the Younger. After 1533 (Detail), Franconian Gallery, Rosenberg Fortress, Kronach

Portrait of Martin Luther, Lucas Cranach the Younger, 1575 (Detail), Art Collection of Veste Coburg

Heart-shaped winged altarpiece (Colditzer Altar), Lucas Cranach the Younger, 1584 (Detail), Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg
KRONACH

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NUREMBERG

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Germanisches Nationalmuseum
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YOUR WAY TO US

DISTANCES FROM THE CRANACH CITIES
KRONACH – COBURG: 33 KM
COBURG – NUREMBERG: 110 KM
NUREMBERG – KRONACH: 118 KM

TO REACH US BY CAR OR TRAIN

KRONACH
The closest airport is in Nuremberg; it is ca. 112 km distant. You can easily reach Kronach by car or train. The closest high-speed rail station is in Lichtenfels, which is 25 km distant and offers regular rail connections. By car, you can use the motorways A3, A9, A7, A70 or A73. These will lead you to roads B173, B303 or B85.

COBURG
From the international airport in Nuremberg you can reach us in about an hour. Other airports are less than three hours away: Frankfurt, Munich, Stuttgart and Dresden. You can also easily reach the city by train. The closest high-speed rail station is in Lichtenfels, which is only 20 km distant. With a car you can travel via the A73 Suhl-Nuremberg. This motorway runs north-south and is the quickest way to Coburg. It has connections to and from the A3, A6, A9, A70 and A71.

NUREMBERG
Is conveniently located at the intersection of the A3, A6, A9 and A73 motorways. State roads B2, B4, B8 and B14 also pass through the city and urban area. The Main Railway Station in Nuremberg is connected to both the national and international rail network of German Rail and can be reached hourly with high-speed trains. The Airport Nuremberg is the gateway to northern Bavaria with more than 50 non-stop destinations and is located close to the city with a direct underground/subway connection.