



Museums in the former Jesuit College building  
 Textile Museum – Sandtner Foundation  
 Swabian Nativity Museum  
 Southern Swabian Archaeological Museum  
 Carl Millner Gallery – Romantic Landscape Painting  
 Opening hours: Tues. to Sun. 10 a.m. – 12.00, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
 and by arrangement

The Museum of Local History is temporarily closed

Swabian Tower Clock Museum  
 in the former St Silvester's Chapel  
 Opening hours: Wed. 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
 last Sunday in the month, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
 and for groups by arrangement



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## ROMAN TIMES

Fortifications on Auerberg Mountain (around 12–40 AD)

In the course of their conquest of the Alpine foreland, the Romans established a settlement fortified with ramparts and trenches on Auerberg Mountain, between Füssen and Schongau.

The site was of particular economic and administrative importance due to its proximity to the Via Claudia Augusta, the main route across the Alps to Italy. Around the middle of the 1st century AD, the urban settlement lost its function and was abandoned, or moved to an unknown location.

Numerous finds give evidence of the production and processing of iron, bronze, glass, ceramics and textiles. The production of arrows for the army is unusual. Several weapons, especially daggers in sheaths richly decorated with silver, prove that legionaries were present here, at least temporarily.



## EARLY MIDDLE AGES

The Alemannic graveyard in Mindelheim (6th/7th century)

In the early Middle Ages, the dead were buried together with a rich array of funerary offerings. Women's graves usually contain jewellery; men's graves contain weapons and magnificently decorated belts with trimmings. Clay vessels stamped with decorative motifs preserved food for the afterlife.

The Mindelheim graveyard encompasses 160 burial sites. A few objects have a Christian meaning, for example, a gold leaf cross. Some luxury items were imported from the Rhineland and northern Italy. A disc-shaped fibula with stone inlays and filigree decoration elements is of outstanding quality. It was once the clasp on a cape belonging to a high-ranking woman.

Translation: Catherine Taylor

## SOUTHERN SWABIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Stone Age. Celts. Romans. Alemanni.



archäologische  
 staatssammlung  
 zweigmuseen  
 mindelheimer museen





## NEOLITHIC AGE

The Pestenacker wetland settlement (3496-around 40 BC)

By using scientific methods, it was possible to determine exactly when people first settled here for farming and animal breeding. They belonged to what is now known as the "Altheim culture", a regional group of the younger Neolithic period. Their settlement, which was situated in a swamp, was destroyed and rebuilt several times.

The people lived with their animals under one roof in a maximum number of 19 small dwellings. The separate living area always contained a small clay-domed oven. Many of the timbers and other organic materials from the buildings were preserved due to the rising groundwater level. The remains discovered here are unique and so special that they are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## BRONZE AGE

Three bronze swords from the Lower Allgäu region (13-19 BC)

Swords from the late Bronze Age, the "Urnfield Period", are often found in burial mounds as funerary offerings for men.

The weapons were cast in bronze, sometimes in several steps. They were not only used in combat, but were also a status symbol of the warlike elite. Shown here are a hilted sword from Mindelheim (left), which once had a handgrip made of organic material, which was not preserved, as well as two solid-hilt swords from Memmingen and Bad Wörishofen.



## LATE BRONZE AGE (HALLSTATT PERIOD)

The burial mound field in Mindelheim (8-6 BC)

Richly furnished graves of the early Iron Age bear witness to the high standing of the deceased in the society of the day. Large wooden chambers were erected for the dead, above which burial mounds were raised.

As burial offerings, they were often given parts of the bridle, the harness or a cart that had once been pulled by two horses.

Many ceramic vessels were placed in the graves of both men and women to serve food and drink to selected guests in life and in the hereafter. Especially in south-west Germany, these vessels were richly decorated in various techniques with incised linear ornaments, stamps and notched ornaments sometimes inlaid with a white lime paste.



## IRON AGE (LA TÈNE PERIOD)

The coin treasure found in Sontheim (mid-2 BC)

The basis for the enormous growth in Celtic local and long-distance trade was the introduction of their own coinage. Initially, the coins of Philip II and his son Alexander the Great (356-323) were imitated, but in the course of the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, the Celts developed their own ornaments and designs.

The coin treasure discovered in 1990 near Sontheim in the Lower Allgäu region contained more than 350 „small rainbow bowls“, as these typical, slightly concave gold coins are called. Many coins were made from the same pair of minting dies, which indicates that they were deposited soon after their production.