

# Welcome

The Stadtmuseum Rapperswil-Jona presents 800 years of town history and culture in a unique ensemble of buildings. It is aimed at a broad audience including families, schools and tourists. For associations, companies and other groups, the museum offers attractive guided tours.

## Museum Buildings

The distinctive newly constructed “Janus” building with its perforated façade in architectural bronze is the hallmark of the museum. It serves as the entry foyer and connects the two historic buildings. Its impressive interior features clear lines and a refined transmission of light. In 2011, the online platform Swiss-Architects recognised “Janus” as the building of the year. The Breny House, a stately townhouse erected in 1492, transports you to bygone days. Preserved in its original condition, the building contains a number of atmospheric rooms, the most impressive of which is the large banquet room with its whimsical wall paintings. The entire ensemble is dominated by the mighty tower from the 14th century.

## Exhibition

The permanent exhibition explores the eventful history of Rapperswil-Jona. In the entry foyer, you are greeted by a large model showing the town as it existed around 1780. Encompassing historic interiors, the art of goldsmithing and war stories, industry, tourism and Circus Knie – the exhibition showcases a great diversity of subjects. An array of precious valuables as well as regular everyday objects bring alive the way people lived in the past. Video and audio stations entertain and make references to the present while interactive elements encourage visitor participation.



# Visitor Information

## Opening Hours

Wednesday to Friday	2–5 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday	11 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Prices

- Individual admission	6.00
- Discounted admission (pupils, students, AHV/IV)	5.00
- Children up to 16	free
- Swiss Museum Pass, Raiffeisen	free

## Contact

Herrenberg 30/40, 8640 Rapperswil  
055 225 79 16 (Reception)  
055 225 79 15 (Curator’s Office)  
stadtmuseum@ogrij.ch  
www.stadtmuseum-rapperswil-jona.ch

## Offers

- Guided tours for groups (1 hour) 130.00, plus individual admission
- Guided tours and workshops for schools, offers for families

## Getting to the Museum

SBB station and harbour on foot in approx. 10 min.  
Schanz and Sonnenhof car parks on foot in approx. 5 min.



# 800 Years of Town History and Culture

stadt  
museum  
Rapperswil-Jona

Traces and Images 1600 B.C.–present  
Where Town Meets Lake  
Eventful Times 700–1830  
Fast New World 1830–present

The modern “Janus” connecting building forms the backbone of the museum. Here you will find a variety of themes with images, text and selected objects that provide an overview of the history of Rapperswil-Jona, chronologically arranged as you proceed upward. Each floor contains points of access to the two historic buildings with their atmospheric rooms where individual themes are presented in depth.

A detailed model in the entry foyer shows how Rapperswil looked around 1780. Comparisons to today are provided by a contemporary map of Rapperswil-Jona, which covers almost the entire floor.

#### A Show of Prestige

Magnificent banquet room with colourful wall and ceiling paintings in the late-Gothic style.

Portrait gallery: works by Felix Maria Diogg from Rapperswil (1762–1834), one of the Swiss Confederation’s most talented portrait painters from that era.

#### Domestic Living and Education

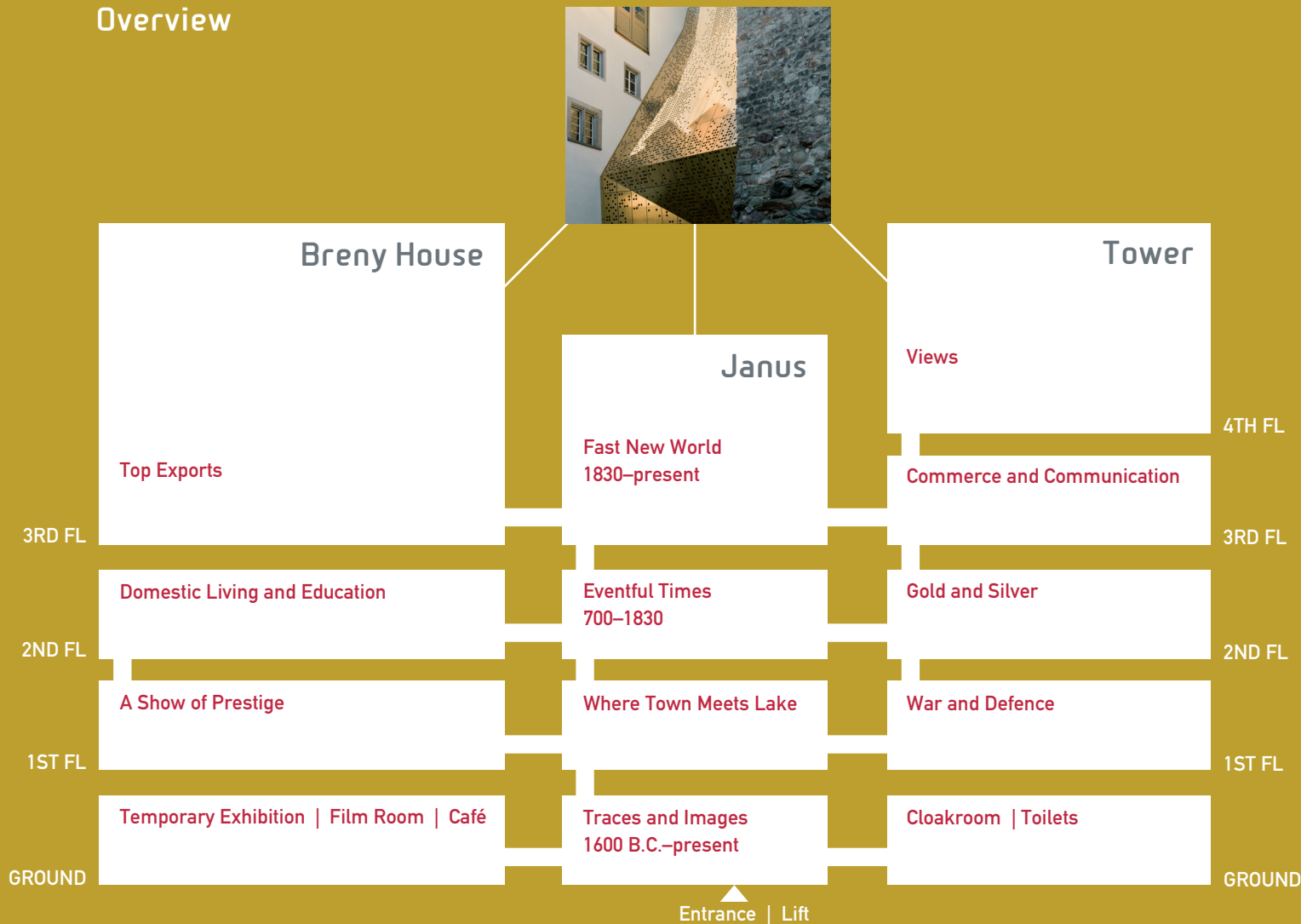
Kitchen, dining room and bedchamber, outfitted with furniture and objects from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Renaissance room from around 1550 featuring exquisite wall panelling with portrait medallions as well as stained glass windows.

#### Top Exports

Geberit, Weidmann and Schneider Stahlbau, three industrial companies, their history and their products. Circus Knie, a 200-year artistic dynasty.

## Overview



#### War and Defence

Rapperswil as a theatre of war: in 1350, the town was burned to the ground, and in 1656 it was besieged for weeks but never taken. Along with weapons and cannonballs, historical images provide a vivid illustration of wartime events and the town’s appearance in those days.

#### Gold and Silver

Rapperswil as a centre of goldsmithing: splendid works in gold and silver by local and foreign artists from the holdings of St. John’s Church (chalices, reliquaries) and the town hall treasure (goblets). Valuable objects from the Rüti Abbey, including the head of an abbot’s crozier (around 1230), decorated with mythical creatures, and a mitre embroidered with suns (around 1517).

#### Commerce and Communication

Original furnishings of a pharmacy as well as a shoemaker’s workshop, accompanied by information and images on health care and the craft of shoemaking. Objects and images on communication history, from the alarm horn up to the telephone.

#### Views

The uppermost floor of the tower affords magnificent views in all directions, looking down over the town and the lake.

Equipped with a lift, the museum is pleased to accommodate disabled visitors with nearly all sections accessible to wheelchairs.



Ortsgemeinde  
rapperswil-jona

2023  
Gestaltung | raum für grafik | rapperswil  
Photos: Dominique Marc Wehrli | Maurice Grünig

