



Of festivals and celebrations

Best crown in town (ages 6 to 10), Dorotheergasse 11

A Judaica contest for very young visitors. The main role is played by the Torah scroll and its magnificent ornamentation. New Torah crowns are designed in the museum – with a Hebrew course included! Ideal in combination with a tour of the synagogue.

Rest & repose (ages 6 to 14), Dorotheergasse 11

You've already heard a lot: no work, no light, no cell phone, no driving, no subway – but is it all really true? An interesting and creative educational program for one of the most well-known Jewish holidays – the weekly rest day of Shabbat: Candlesticks, cups, spice boxes and plates are the protagonists of an exciting museum tour.

Chilling with Isidor! (ages 10 to 19), Dorotheergasse 11

The "Shabbat Room" installation by the Israeli artist Maya Zack is a creative enhancement of the offer for the Jewish day of rest. It traces the famous Jewish painter Isidor Kaufmann, who set up the so-called "Gute Stube" ("Good Parlor") for the first Jewish Museum in Vienna in 1899. The installation enables us to enter this room and even visit the artist in his studio. How Isidor Kaufmann might have celebrated Shabbat, what he would do today and what you do yourself even when you are doing nothing – that is what this relaxed educational program is all about.

It's all kosher, halal and delicious, right? (ages 6 to 19), Dorotheergasse 11

A culinary walk through all floors of the museum, during which we learn more about what is allowed and forbidden (when eating) with the help of very different exhibition objects. We meet the historical protagonists of our permanent exhibition and create a multi-course menu in small groups in their local kosher hangout. For younger workshop participants we serve up a memory game – including kosher gummy bears!

Celebrating festivals when they fall (ages 6 to 19), Dorotheergasse 11

Let us celebrate the Jewish festivals together in the season in which they are celebrated. Each time we focus on just one specific holiday, linking information about the procedures, occasions and dates with the stories of the objects that the Jewish Museum's extensive collection has in store. Purim gragers (rattles), Seder plates, Torah crowns, Etrog boxes, candlesticks and Kiddush cups tell of their origins and perhaps also the stories of their owners, collectors or artists. We relate the information about the holiday with photos by the chronicler Margit Dobronyi, who came to Vienna from Budapest in 1956 to document the life of the Jewish community as a "paparazza." Her photos portray life after survival and thus become a bridge between the past and the present.

From beginning to end (ages 10 to 19), Dorotheergasse 11

Some of you have heard of a Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah, but how do Jewish youth celebrate their step into the adult world? What are the symbols of a Jewish wedding? What does it look like in a kosher kitchen and would a Jewish family shop at a halal butcher? We answer these (and many other) questions with a museum object from our extraordinary collections as well as with an everyday object.

The rabbi on the road (ages 6 to 10), Judenplatz 8

Participatory theater with hands-on objects and a whole lot of imagination! With the help of pantomime, we invent and play Rabbi Isserlein's adventurous journey to Krems without any text. He's already running late and in a hurry because he's supposed to marry off beautiful Blimel there. How long does the rabbi take from Vienna to Krems? Does he go on foot? Where is the marriage contract and why is the wedding ring decorated with a house? With questions (and answers), Jewish history and culture become tangible for (young) visitors.

NEW: Tratsch (Gossip) and klatsch on Shabbat? (ages 12 to 19), Judenplatz 8

"Shee'lot U'Tshuvot" is a collective term for bundles of texts – questions and responses – which exemplify medieval Jewish concerns, topics, relationships and ideas by, for example, a rabbi answering questions. A separate area in "Our Middle Ages!" exhibition offers visitors ages 12 and up the opportunity to use the bridge of questions to find (their own) answers. During the workshop, students also consider which questions, concerns, issues or worries affect people in the 21st century and how a modern rabbi could respond to them.