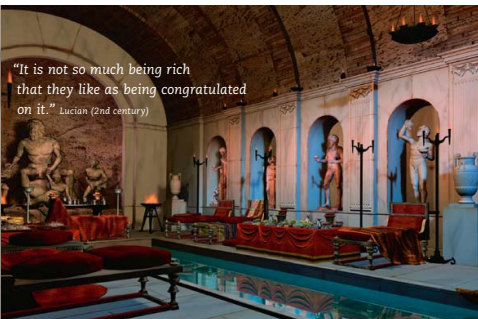




museum het valkhof nijmegen

Luxury Decadence

Life on the Roman gold coast
23-08-08 t/m 04-01-09



"It is not so much being rich that they like as being congratulated on it." Lucian (2nd century)



Some villas had a private bath. Before dining with the master of the house, guests would take a hot bath: a luxury that enabled the master to show off his wealth. For the first time one can view the only fully preserved hot water system from Antiquity.

Food and drink
Wealthy Romans enjoyed spending copious time and money on food and drink. Some frescoes depict wild banquet scenes. Guests reclining on couches at richly set tables are served by slaves or entertained by girls of pleasure. One painting shows a man vomiting, supported by a slave.

Women and beauty
Rich ladies adorned themselves with precious jewellery. A top piece is a diadem of gold, decorated with gold thread and three exceptionally large pearls. A small wooden case with ivory decoration is a beautiful example of a classical 'beauty case'. The contents are fully preserved: a bronze mirror, a smooth golden ring, two silver brooches with gold filigree, a small ointment jar, a tiny spatula, a comb, a needle and an ivory hair pin.

Exhibition Organisation
The exhibition has been made possible by the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples and the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompeii. It is the result of international collaboration between the LWL-Römermuseum in Hattorf an See (Kreis Rockinghausen), the Focke-Museum in Bremen, the Archäologische Staatssammlung in Munich and Museum Het Valkhof in Nijmegen. These partners also successfully collaborated on 'Herculaneum's final hours'.



Visitor information
Museum Het Valkhof
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Open from 23 August 2008 to 4 January 2009
Tuesday to Friday | 10am-5pm,
Saturday, Sunday and public holidays | 11am-5pm
Closed on Mondays, on 25 December (Christmas day) and 1 January

Museum tickets and surcharge 22.8. 2008 to 4.1. 2009
A surcharge on the museum ticket applies to all visitors to Museum Het Valkhof during the exhibition.

Admission prices (including surcharge)
17 years and older € 10,00 | Pensioners (65+) € 8,00 | Groups (min. 15 persons) € 8,00 | 4 to 16 years € 5,00 | Students / GJP € 5,00 | Rembrandt society / ICOM € 4,00 | Museum Card holders € 4,00 | The first-Wednesday-of-the-month-ticket for € 1,00 does not apply during this period.

Current visitor information
Please refer to www.museumhetvalkhof.nl

Group programs
Guided tours by third parties are not permitted. Special programs for the exhibition can be booked for groups of 15 or more from Tuesday to Saturday from 12pm. Only on reservation. All programs can be booked through the Sales department: Tue to Fri: 10am-1pm, Phone 0031 (0)24 360 8805 and by email: publiekzaken@museumhetvalkhof.nl.

Would groups of 15 or more that are not part of a booked program please give working days notice to the Sales department (see above).

Exclusive evening receptions will also be held in the museum for companies and organisations.

Luxury and decadence: the exhibition

From 23 August 2008 to 4 January 2009 a new top exhibition will be on display in Museum Het Valkhof: 'Luxury and decadence. Life on the Roman gold coast'.

The exhibition offers a glimpse into the lives of the Roman 'Forbes 400', a small group of the mega rich, who lived in immense villas on the Gulf of Naples 2000 years ago. Their possessions, pieces from the National Archaeological Museum in Naples, will be on show for the first time outside Italy: frescoes, statues in bronze and marble, and jewellery. 3-D animations of villas and gardens can also be seen.

Just like today, the decadence of the mega rich was highly criticised in classical times. The exhibition therefore also pays attention to the often biting criticism dealt out by classical authors regarding the luxurious lifestyle of the Roman elite. These authors describe an increasing focus on status rather than traditional Roman values.

A world of rich and poor

Of the estimated 50 to 80 million inhabitants of the Roman Empire only one percent belonged to the upper class. In order to win the favour of the common people, these wealthy citizens sponsored free gladiator performances in the arena. Top pieces on this theme are two bronze gladiator leg guards and a helmet weighing no less than 2.5 kilograms.

The wealthy usually had one or more slaves for various tasks in the household or on the land. An iron shackle is a silent witness to the conditions under which many of them lived. The shackle was attached to a beam in the floor and many slaves could be fastened at the same time, each by one leg.

Villas and gardens

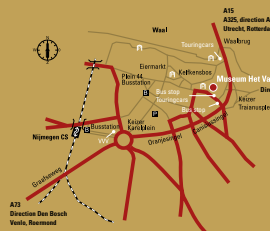
Due to the crowded state of the city, the Roman elite sometimes had no room for a garden in their villas. For this reason they decorated their houses with colourful frescoes of gardens, plants, fountains and birds.

The country estates on the coast in contrast had gardens adorned with splendid fountains, marble vases and numerous bronze and marble statues of Greek workmanship.

Audiotour
An audio tour provides the visitor with a lively and concise explanation of the exhibition. Price: € 3,50 (English, German and Dutch).

Accessibility
Due to the size of the exhibition, fewer rooms are available for the permanent collection. There are entry rules for motorised wheelchairs. A limited number of pushed wheelchairs are available.

How to get there
Public transport: current info www.9292ov.nl | Train: Nijmegen CS www.ns.nl | Bus: Bus stop Museum Het Valkhof www.novio.nl | On foot: Approx. 15 minutes from Nijmegen transtation | Car: See map, parking at Kelfkensbos. Current parking information: www.nijmegen.nl | Coaches: Drop off at Museum Het Valkhof bus stop. Parking at the Waalkade



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