

Collegiate museum Treis-Karden

Karden is located 40 km away from Koblenz at the lower course of the Moselle. Without any doubt Karden deserves its reputation as the most important site between Koblenz and Trier with regard to culture and history.

At first glance the visitor is struck by the view of the imposing building of St. Castor, the ancient collegiate church which is still dominating the village centre.



The museum building itself represents a historical monument. It was built in 1238 as a part of the collegiate district. In former times it was mainly used as a tithe barn. This was the place to store the goods which the collegiate received as contributions from their parishes.

The windows of the upper floors are particularly remarkable. Arch windows alternate with clover and round arches that have been restored to their original state of splendid colours.



Stifsmuseum, Kernstraße; entrance via St. Castor-Str. / Lindenplatz

The collegiate museum displays items illustrating the importance of Karden going back thousands of years. In the past Karden used to be the religious centre of the archdiocese of Trier.

Celtic-Roman Division

In the first century before Christ, in the Celtic time, there was a sanctuary on the Martberg situated between Pommern and Karden, where the Celtic tribe of the Treverer worshipped their main god Lenus. In Roman times a large temple district was established there. A great number of pilgrims flocked to the Martberg in the hope of being relieved from their illnesses. At the site of the present village of Karden the Romans had established the street village Cardena. In a large pottery district goods were manufactured which the believers, according to their religious faith, dedicated to their god as votive offerings.

The Collegiate Church St. Castor

The religious importance and function of Karden even survived the transition to Christianity and the changes involved with the new religious ideas. In the 4th century Saint Castor lived and worked there. He contributed largely to the establishment of this pilgrimage place.

Since the late 9th century Karden has been the seat of one of five administration districts belonging to the archdiocese of Trier. The collegiate church of Karden had been existing for almost 1000 years when it was abolished by Napoleon in 1802. The head of the collegiate at Karden was simultaneously the canonical bishop of a district that stretched from Andernach to Bacharach in the east and from Wittlich to Traben-Trarbach in the west. At the end of the 18th century 10 courts and 53 towns and villages had to pay the tithe to the collegiate.

Sacral art in Karden

The sacral room with its solemn atmosphere on the second floor forms an attractive background to the presentation of sacral art objects from the areas surrounding the collegiate of Karden.

Liturgical vestments and equipment as well as precious medieval manuscripts are exposed there.

Gallo roman temple on Martberg collegiate district with collegiate museum



The Abbey Museum is located in the Karden district
Entrance via St. Castor-Str. / next to the collegiate church

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Gallo-Roman Temple on Martberg - Pommern/Mosel



Gallo-Roman Temple on Martberg



Martberg hill, about 180 metres above the river Moselle between Pommern and Karden, was the location of a fortified town-like Celtic settlement. The centre of the settlement, known as an *oppidum* by the Romans, became the site of a Gallo-Roman temple, a visible reminder of the tumultuous history of the Celts and the Romans in the Moselle region. This temple was a shrine to Lenus Mars, the Roman god after whom Martberg hill was named.

In its heyday, around 200 AD, this ritual site was home to numerous temples. Thanks to many years of excavation, parts of the temple complex have now been restored. Guided tours of the complex and the main temple with its wall paintings are available throughout the year.

Archaeological finds – including weapons, jewellery and thousands of Celtic and Roman coins – provide an insight into the ritual activities that took place some 2,000 years ago. Individual items are on display in the Museum of Religious History in Karden.

Numerous information boards are found in the temple complex and along the Lenus-Mars-Trail. They tell you all about the reconstructions and archaeological research of the Celtic oppidum and the fortifications.

You can learn all about the excavation site and the archaeological finds in an exhibition in the Bürgerhaus 'Am Spilles' and on the Internet on www.martberg-pommern.de.



Martberg Café / Museum Shop

The Martberg Café offers coffee and homemade cakes, refreshments and regional wines (only during the opening hours of the main temple). You can buy souvenirs and books in the museum store.

How to get there

Cars and minibuses can reach the Martberg from Pommern via an unpaved road to the turnaround parking lot. From here it is a 1 kilometer walk to the temple complex. Direct access for larger coaches is not possible (Pommern, use the Moselweinstraße parking lot).

Hiking tip: Hike along the Moselsteig Trail / Lenus Mars Trail to the temple complex!

It takes 45 minutes from Pommern and 1 hour from Karden via the Lenus Mars Trail, part of the Moselsteig Trail stage from Cochem to Treis-Karden.



Texts: Dr. Morgenroth, D. Rumpfenhorst, TI Treis-Karden
Fotos: Andreas Schmickler, TI Treis-Karden

Prices and opening hours

Abbey Museum

Opening hours Abbey Museum

May - mid-October: Friday, Saturday and Sunday
14:00 - 16:30

Group tours all year round by arrangement

Admission to the Abbey Museum

Adults: 5 Euro

Seniors: 4 Euro

Children (6 - 17 years), pupils, students: 3 Euro

Family ticket (2 adults, 1 child or more): 10 Euro

Adults in groups of 10 or more: 4 euros

School classes: 40 euros (all-inclusive price)

Martberg

Opening hours of the Martberg temple complex:

The grounds of the temple complex are freely accessible all year round

Visits to the main temple

May - end of October: Saturday and Sunday

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Group tours all year round by arrangement

Entrance fees Martberg

Tour of the main temple with interior painting during
Opening hours + visitor information 2 € per person
(children up to 12 years free)

Guided tours

The temple complex with the interior paintings in the main temple and the 2000-year history of religion in the Abbey Museum, in the Karden district, can be experienced in guided tours.

Abbey Museum: 65 euros up to 10 people, from 11 people 6.50 euros per person; plus 2 euros per person entrance fee

Abbey Museum & Abbey Church:

80 euros up to 10 people, from 11 people 8 euros per person; plus 2 euros admission per person

Martberg temple complex: 65 euros up to 10 people, from 11 persons 6,50 Euro per person

Temple complex and Abbey Museum: 100 euros up to 10 persons, from 11 persons 10 euros per person, plus 2 euros museum admission per person

Information and registration for a guided tour

Tourist Information Treis-Karden

St. Castor-Str. 87, 56253 Treis-Karden, OT Karden

Tel. 0 26 72 - 915 77 00, Fax 0 26 72 - 915 76 96

touristinfo@vgcochem.de, www.treis-karden.de

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