

Holidays and Traditions

The rabbi on the road (6-10 years), Judenplatz 8

Tag along theater about the wedding of the beautiful Bliml from Krems: Together we create a play, where you do not have to speak a word: Mime is the magic word! Served with exciting information on medieval Jewish life in Vienna and Krems.

Best crown in town (6-10 years), Dorotheergasse 11

A Judaica contest for very young visitors. The Torah scroll and its splendid ornaments play the lead roles. Ideal in combination with a tour through the synagogue; new Torah crowns are designed in the museum. Hebrew lesson included!

Day of rest (6-14 years), Dorotheergasse 11

You might have heard some things already: no work, no light, no cellphone, no driving, no travel. Is that right? An interesting and creative program about one of the most well-known Jewish festivals – Shabbat, the weekly day of rest. Candlesticks, goblets, spice boxes, and plates are the “protagonists” in our museums' tour.

Is that kosher and halal? (6-19 years), Dorotheergasse 11

A culinary tour of the entire museum in which we examine various objects to discover what Jews are allowed to eat and what is prohibited. We will meet animals, plants, and tableware for sure, and will devise a menu for a four-course dinner in a kosher restaurant. For younger visitors we have packed the information into a memory game. Including kosher jellybeans!

Celebrating Jewish festivals (6–19 years), Dorotheergasse 11

Celebrate the Jewish holidays with us as they come around. We focus on the specific holiday, connecting information on how and why it is celebrated with the history of the objects and of their former owners, collectors, or makers in the Jewish Museum's extensive collection: Purim rattles, Seder plates, Torah crowns, etrog boxes, menorahs, and Kiddush cups. We also look at photos by Margit Dobronyi, who came from Budapest to Vienna in 1956 and became the main photographic chronicler of Jewish community life. Her pictures show life after the Holocaust and thus provide a bridge between the past and the present. We also offer special programs like object design, Hebrew lessons, and mini-theater adapted to the age of the participants. This is an exciting program for all age groups and different subjects.

Chilling with Isidor! (10-19 years), Dorotheergasse 11

The “Shabbat Room” installation by Israeli artist Maya Zack is a creative addition to the program on the Jewish day of rest. She followed in the footsteps of the famous Jewish genre painter Isidor Kaufmann, who designed in 1899 the “Gute Stube” installation for the first Jewish Museum Vienna. She visits him in his studio and allows us to enter the Shabbat room. This restful program looks at how Kaufmann might have celebrated Shabbat, what he would do today, and what we do when we're doing nothing.

How do you celebrate? (10-19 years), Dorotheergasse 11

An entertaining education program on the festivals and holidays in the Jewish calendar that shows that things are not always what they first seem. The snapshots by Vienna power woman Margit Dobronyi, who captured the Viennese Jewish life on photo for forty years from 1960, are the imaginary guests at Jewish festivals that we all celebrate at the same time.

From beginning to end (10- 19 years), Dorotheergasse 11

Some people might have heard about bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah, but perhaps do not know exactly how young Jews celebrate this step towards adulthood. What do the symbols at a Jewish wedding represent? What does a kosher kitchen look like? A Jewish family would buy meat at the Turkish butcher? We will be answering these (and other) questions by comparing specific exhibits from our collections with everyday objects.