

MINERAL & GEM

59th SHOW

26-30 JUNE 2024



PARAGENE SIS

SECRETS OF
THE EARTH

**SAINTE-MARIE
AUX-MINES**
ALSACE | FRANCE



PRESS KIT



sainte-marie-mineral.com



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The history of the event

Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines

Nestled in the heart of the Vosges mountains in Alsace, Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines's very name evokes a rich geological history intertwined with human development. This small town, seemingly enveloped by the lush greenery and craggy relief of the Liepvrette valley, bears traces of a past when geology was at the heart of human life.



The history of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines is inextricably linked to its mineral deposits, which were the very reason for its development in the Middle Ages. The first mining operations date back to this period, when the first prospectors discovered veins of silver in the bowels of the earth. This discovery radically transformed the destiny of what was then a modest village.

Over the centuries, the town became a major mining center, attracting treasure seekers, scientists and workers from all over Europe. **The silver, lead, copper and iron mines contributed to the prosperity of the region, shaping its architecture, economy and society.**

But Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines is not only a living testimony to mining history; it is also an eloquent example of how geology can shape human history. Techniques for extracting and processing minerals have evolved, bearing witness to human ingenuity and adaptation to the challenges posed by nature.

Today, although the mines are closed, **the geological heritage of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines continues to influence the town.** Old mine galleries, miners' houses and mineral processing workshops tell the story of a time when earth and man were intimately linked.

The history of the event

The SPL EVA

The Local Public Company "Événementiel en Val d'Argent" (EVA), created in 2015, has a mission to boost the area by organizing different events on the territory including the Mineral & Gem show.

Eager to share all the cultural wealth and heritage of the Val d'Argent community of communes, **the SPL EVA works all year round to program events of international scope in Alsace.** Attached to its territory and active in its development, it builds all its projects **hand in hand with the actors and resources available locally.** The company pursues its objective of promoting and preserving the historical heritage of the territory and the passion for mineralogy on an international scale.



In numbers

Over 1.000 exhibitors

56 nationalities

**6.036 mineral
species on Earth**



In numbers



Over **42k** visitors

700 volunteers

26k followers
on social media

Mineral & Gem: an event that brings us together

From renowned experts to enlightened amateurs, from seasoned collectors to curious novices, this event is a crossroads where everyone shares and discovers.

Every crystal and every gem tells an age-old story, a captivating epic of formation and transformation. The geology of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, marked by the diversity of its minerals, has become a privileged field of study for geologists and mineralogists. The exceptional variety of crystals extracted from its soils makes it a world reference for mineralogy enthusiasts.

An event for the experts and for the professionals

Every year, a tented village rises in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines to host a huge international trade fair of minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils and meteorites.

No. 1 in Europe, over 1000 exhibitors from 56 countries come together in a unique, eclectic atmosphere.

From Wednesday to Sunday, take advantage of the technical exhibits and attend the expert lectures that will enrich your visit.

You'll find two zones:

The **MINERAL** zone, where you'll find minerals (rough stones), fossils and shells, meteorites, lithotherapy, specialized bookstores and equipment such as extraction tools, polishing machines, etc. With 650 exhibitors, there's bound to be something for you!



The **GEM** zone, where you'll discover gems (cut stones), jewelry, precious stones, jewelers and costume jewelry! You'll be amazed by the diversity of these gems, each more fascinating than the last!

This year's event will be ...

PRESTIGIOUS

With over 1,000 exhibitors Mineral & Gem is the world's second-largest and Europe's leading trade fair for mineralogy and gemology

INTERACTIVE

An interactive map will help you find your way around the 52,000 sq.m. of exhibition space and give you all the information you need about a stand or nearby services

AMAZING

6036 species of minerals exist today, and you're bound to discover one at Mineral & Gem

CULTURAL

The 59th MINERAL & GEM show shares with you the geological and mining culture of the town of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines

INTERNATIONAL

An event that brings together, more than 56 nationalities and visitors from all around the world to meet and share their passions

In the secrets of the Earth

A 2024 show on the theme of Paragenesis

What is Paragenesis?

Mineral paragenesis is the set of minerals that form simultaneously in a rock under the same conditions.



The magic of mineral paragenesis

From Fabian Wildfang collection

Immerse yourself in an extraordinary adventure through time and geological mysteries with the “Paragenesis” exhibition. This exceptional event combines beauty and scientific knowledge to shed light on the fascinating phenomenon of mineral formation. The exhibition is an unmissable opportunity for collectors, geology enthusiasts and anyone else interested in the world of minerals.



who are fascinated by the wonders of our planet. Come to marvel at and enrich your knowledge about the Earth's hidden treasures.

A world of minerals to explore

Well-known collectors recognize that mineral distribution varies significantly by region, with some mineral species associations being unique to specific localities. Distant deposits such as the Panasqueira tungsten mine in Portugal and the Yao Gan Xiang tin mine in China share astonishing similarities, unlocking the mysteries of mineral distribution and the surprising links between deposits.



Host rocks and their influence

Treat yourself to an introduction to geology by discovering how host rocks, whether sedimentary, magmatic, volcanic or metamorphic, play a crucial role in the creation of unique minerals and mineral associations

From Fabian Wildfang collection

In the secrets of the Earth

The mineral collection: a journey through time

Explore the history of minerals and the passion behind the collections. Highlight the radiance of minerals and the geological stories they tell. Cross continents to see the diversity of the mineral world: China, Brazil, USA, Canada, Congo, Mali, Morocco, Germany, Kosovo, France and more.

You'll never admire minerals in the same way again.



From Fabian Wildfang collection



From Fabian Wildfang collection

This exhibition is more than just a presentation of minerals; it's an ode to a passion for mineralogy, enriched by the expertise of renowned museums and eminent collectors. It's an invitation to an educational adventure, where you'll discover why it's impossible to find an aquamarine near Paris, and why Cave-in-Rock fluorite is never associated with a granite gangue.

This exhibition is made possible by the Université de Strasbourg, the Natur Musée de Luxembourg and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. Many thanks to Fabian Wildfang (a major German collector) and collectors emeritus Gilles Emringer and Denis Boël. Congratulations to Philippe Grisoul, Guillaume Fafournoux, Lionel Robertson and Quentin Chamayou on their first exhibition at Mineral & Gem. Young collectors, members of the international Facebook group “Young Minerals Collectors”, once again take part in the exhibition. Geologist Lucas Etienne has joined the organizing team alongside Alain Martaud.



On the agenda

The exhibitions



Piscine exhibition

“**Behind the minerals: from shadow to light**” exhibition at the Piscine takes you on a fascinating journey through the world of minerals, from the purity of Alpine crystals to the robust specimens found in mines. Each exhibitor, whether crystal-maker or researcher, **presents a unique mineral from their own prospecting**. This tour of the mineralogical world is not limited to the beauty of the specimens; it also includes **stories about their extraction and origin**. This exhibition is a chance for geology experts, natural adventure enthusiasts and the curious to discover the earth from a new angle, understanding how minerals shape our world.



Fossil exhibition

The exhibition inside the Pavillon Osmont will showcase the work of **The Connor Brothers, a duo of British artists** known for their provocative, thoughtful art that blends **humor, social critique and cultural commentary**. They explore themes such as **truth, fiction and the human condition**. Their work is often imbued with a biting irony and pop aestheticism, making them **key figures in contemporary art**. Outside the Pavillon Osmont you'll find the **Croc'Dino exhibition/activities**, aimed at everyone from young explorers to natural history enthusiasts, promising an unforgettable experience at the heart of prehistory. Don't miss this unique opportunity to discover the fascinating secrets of our planet!

Activities

Visit the Gabe Gottes mine

Accompanied by guides from the Archéomine association, visit the Gabe Gottes mine in the Rauenthal valley. Opened in the 2nd half of the 16th century, this mine exploited silver and then arsenic veins until 1940.

Saturday and Sunday at 12 and 3pm.

1€ for kids under 10 years old and

4€ for kids above 10 years old and adults

[More info on the website](#)



Micro-labo workshop



You'll discover the fascinating world of the infinitely small thanks to magnifying glasses provided by the Association Française de Micro-minéralogie, whose members will be delighted to help you better understand micro-minerals.

Zone Mineral, Val d'Argent Expo VE2 200/204

A workshop proposed and run by the Association Française de Micro-minéralogie (AFM).



Croc'Dino

Dive into the age of giants with Croc'Dino at the 59th edition of Mineral & Gem. This animation is the perfect opportunity to keep a memorable trace of your visit to the must-see event for mineral and fossil enthusiasts from all over the world. Don't miss this chance to be “crunched” by a dinosaur in a crunchy experience that promises to enthrall and captivate visitors of all ages. Come and join this unforgettable paleontological escapade at the Osmont Pavilion, where you'll have the opportunity to photograph yourself inside the jaws of impressive predators such as the Tyrannosaurus Rex and the Spinosaurus, among others.



Photo J. Antena

Lectures

All lectures are free, without registration, and take place in the Projection Room on the 2nd floor of the Théâtre. All of them are in French.

Thursday 27/06

- 10H - **Simon ARRAS** - Fossiles en fluorite : mémoire d'un cristal
- 14H- **Léa FRIEDRICH** - Susciter de l'émotion pour mieux communiquer
- 15H - **Jean-Jacques CHEVALLIER** - Histoire géologique

Friday 28/06

- 9H30 - **Jean-Jacques CHEVALLIER** - Minéralogie pour tous
- 11H - **ANDRA & IRSN** - Les minerais radioactifs - Détention et élimination
- 13H - **Christophe PERRAY** - Le plus vieux métier du monde
- 15H - **Alain MORALA** - Les processus de fossilisation et leurs diverses cristallisations

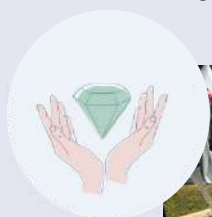
Saturday 29/06

- 9H30 - **Dr Laurent MASSI** - Le rôle et l'importance des inclusions en gemmologie
- 11H - **Albert JAMBON** - La découverte du fer métallurgique, une enquête : où ? quand ? comment ?
- 13H30 - **Stéphane RENARD** - L'origine du saphir : une géologie multiple et complexe
- 15H - **Alain MORALA** - Les 6 grandes extinctions de la planète. Événements et catastrophisme

Sunday 30/06

- 10H- **Simon ARRAS** - Des fossiles en fluorites ! Bizarrerie géologique
- 11H30 - **Patricia DESMORTIERS** - Minéralogie Enchantée
- 14H - **Jean-Jacques CHEVALLIER** - Bois fossiles d'Arizona

Find more about the *Cristal & Santé* lectures (lithotherapy) here:



The shop

Don't leave without a souvenir from our official shop

Go to the shop in the heart of the event, on the Théâtre roundabout (ZM) to get our must-have goodies!

- The tee-shirt, style and comfort, it has it all!
- The polo, the choice of champions
- The soft sweater for a cocooning moment
- The cup, to start your day with a dose of pleasure
- The wine glass, to savor each sip with elegance
- The backpack that follows you everywhere, from the city to nature
- The flask, reusable it is a must-have for cold and hot drinks
- The reusable plastic cup the classic that makes every drink even more special
- Bottles of Alsace wine, for the second time! In collaboration with Gilbert Ruhlmann & Fils, a winery based in Scherwiller
- The cap perfect for a casual and cool look
- The carrier bag that can hold everything you need
- The fanny pack, ideal to visit light



SHOP MINERAL & GEM



Practical information



Parkings & shuttles

Free shuttles will be available from the parking lots to take you to the heart of the event. 5,000 paid parking spaces are available. You'll also find on-site camper van parking (no overnight stay).



5€/day & by car



10€/day & by camper van

By TER (bus) connections from Sélestat or Saint-Dié-des-Vosges: see timetables here (only the Super U stop and the Place de Gaulle stop will be available during the event).

Via Basel-Mulhouse, Strasbourg and Baden-Baden international airports
Carpooling is also available, and we've created an event on the specialized Covievent site for Mineral & Gem here : [Covi'event Mineral & Gem 2024](#)

Opening dates



From 26 to 28 June for the professionnals
From 29 to 30 June for the general public

Opening hours

Everyday from **9AM** to **6PM**



Tickets

On-site and online ticketing: [pro tickets](#) & [general public tickets](#)

Visitors can save time by purchasing their tickets online before the visit. To avoid queuing at the cash desks: a special pre-sales queue will be dedicated to visitors who already have their ticket.

Accreditation request and badge collection

- **Accreditation request**

You'll find the accreditation form you'll need to fill in on our website in the press section **before Friday June 14, 2024**. Your accreditation will enable you to register and collect your press badge, which will be waiting for you at the Press & VIP tent.

- **Badge collection** 

For press and VIPs, please proceed to the welco tent, which must be accessed via Gate 2b (indicated on the map) at the bottom of the Parc Jules Simon, Zone Mineral, **from 9am to 1pm**.



Useful links

More information on [our website!](#)

[Access, opening hours and services](#)

[Carpooling](#)

[Exhibitions](#)

[Lectures](#)

[Activities](#)

[Frequently asked question](#)

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