

23 April 2013

Coffee. A global success

Exhibition in the Botanical Museum and Coffee Trail in the
Berlin Botanic Garden

17 May 2013 to 23 February 2014 · Press tour on 15 May 2013 at 10.30 a.m.



"**Coffee. A global success**" is this year's special exhibition in Berlin's Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum. It showcases the success story of the economically most important coffee species, *Coffea arabica*, and its few remaining wild habitats in the montane rainforests of Ethiopia. Biological, cultural, historical, ethnographic and economic aspects are all covered. In addition to the 350 m² exhibition in the Botanical Museum, the Coffee Trail leads to 15 stations with living plants in the Botanic Garden. The exhibition is open from 17 May 2013 to 23 February 2014. All exhibition texts are in German and English. A richly illustrated catalogue is being published, including all German and English texts.

***Coffea arabica*: a story of diversity**

Coffee is globally successful. In Germany alone around four billion cups are drunk each year. Among more than a hundred coffee species, *Coffea arabica* is the most important economically. Around the world, only a few genetic variants are grown, whereas a rich and unique genetic diversity can be found in the plant's region of origin in south western Ethiopia. In order to preserve this valuable resource for future generations, we must study these last habitats of wild Arabica coffee in the montane rainforests of Ethiopia and give them lasting protection.

Main theme: Ethiopia's last wild coffee forests

The Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, in cooperation with its partners, has made *Coffea arabica* and its natural habitat the focus of this exhibition. As one of the first protected areas for wild coffee, the Yaju Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve was founded on the bases of a long-term collaboration between Ethiopian and German partners. The Ethiopian non-governmental organization Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF), one of the exhibition partners, has played a crucial role in developing practical initiatives for the protection and sustainable use of the last remaining coffee forests.

Coffee culture, economy and Coffee Trail

Apart from the Ethiopian 'coffee forest', visitors can also learn more about coffee-growing in Asia, Africa and Latin America. They can take a seat at one of six coffee tables from different historical periods. They can follow the ups and downs of the current global market prices for green coffee, or be inducted into the secrets of the Ethiopian coffee ceremony. There's a wide range of themes and many interactive exhibits that offer both entertainment and food for thought for the whole family. The Coffee Trail through the Botanic Garden will take visitors from coffee bushes in the useful plants greenhouse to the systematic section in the open air. Fifteen information panels will tell you more about the coffee plant's relatives, neighbours and competitors.

Press tour and Preview: **SAVE THE DATE**

Please join us on **Wednesday 15 May 2013 at 10.30 a.m.** for a press tour and preview with the curators (Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8, 14195 Berlin). Interview and photo opportunities will be provided. Please contact zebgbm@bgbm.org for accreditation until 13 May 2013.

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Exhibition in the Botanical Museum and Coffee Trail in the Berlin Botanic Garden

Location: Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem
Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8, 14195 Berlin

Duration: 17 May 2013 to 23 February 2014
Exhibition daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Museum)
Coffee Trail daily 9 a.m. to dusk (Garden)

Admission: Garden & Museum: 6 €, reduced 3 €
Museum only: 2,50 €, reduced 1,50 €

More: www.bgbm.org/bgbm/museum/expo/2013/default.htm - Exhibition
www.bgbm.org/bgbm/pr/Archiv/pressimages/press_images.HTM#Sonderausstellung_Kaffee – **press pictures**
www.botanischer-garten-berlin.de – Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem

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The Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem is one of the top three botanic gardens in the world. Founded in 1679 it has a long tradition as an internationally renowned research institution and is nowadays part of the "Freie Universität Berlin". About 22,000 different species of plants are cultivated on 43 hectares. The living collections, the more than 3.5 million herbarium specimens, and the largest botanical library in Germany, form the basis for the continued expansion of our scientific knowledge and study of global plant diversity. Our goal is to explore, document, present, explain and preserve plant diversity.