

The Nordic Bible Museum One Year

By Kristin Cock 21.06.2019 07:00

The Nordic Bible Museum in Oslo has in its first year showcased its collection of cultural treasures to more than 2400 visitors. The goal is to double that number by next year.

- The interest in the museum has been great, both among visitors and in the media. The museum is for everyone. We have activities for children and adults. Looking forward, we are working to attract more tourists to come and see our exhibitions, says executive director Rune Arnhoff at the Nordic Bible Museum.

The museum has teamed up with Visit Oslo, and is hoping to attract cruise-tourists in particular, from the pier and into the museum in Kvadraturen.

- We are making the museum available for many nationalities, and we are translating all texts to English, German, and Spanish. We have room for many more visitors who are curious about the history of the Bible and the book, says Arnhoff.

The Nordic Bible Museum is the first of its kind in the Nordic countries. With over 300 square meters of space, the museum showcases a plethora of Bibles of different sizes, shapes, and colors, from all the Nordic countries. The oldest Bible pages in the museum are from the 1200s.

Popular activities

There have been several lectures and four themed exhibitions at the museum the past year.

- The talk on how archaeology has confirmed the existence of biblical persons was the most popular. We had a full house with more than 100 people present, says Arnhoff.

The themed exhibitions have featured polyglot Bibles, the oldest Bibles, and Sami Bibles, among others.

- We will find new and exciting themes for exhibitions in the future, as well as host more lectures, Arnhoff says.

The last addition to the museum is the opportunity for visitors to dress up in monk robes in a designated writing room. The room is a replica of the writing rooms used during the 13th and 14th centuries.

- We want the museum to be interactive. The visitors are taken on a journey through time and are able to experience how biblical texts were written, on leather or on parchment, Arnhoff continues. He explains that the writing room is a popular place for taking photos and selfies.

More volunteers

Over 40 volunteers work at the Bible Museum

- Some are students who wish to get working experience to put on their CV, others have a lot of experience, but find it interesting working for the museum. The diversity of people makes the museum innovative and makes sure that we are constantly evolving, Arnhoff says.
- Our visitors vary from people who are genuinely interested in Bible- and religious history, to art enthusiasts and others who visit purely out of curiosity, he finishes.

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