Responsibility for the future –
Deutsches Museum Transport Museum

Transport and mobility are among the most important underpinnings of our economy and society. In fact, mobility is a fundamental function of human life and survival. Nevertheless, at the dawn of the 21st century, the world faces huge challenges in matters of transport and mobility. The Deutsches Museum hopes that its educational activities will contribute to the search for an adequate response to this challenge.

The setting-up of its Transport Museum in the historic exhibition buildings on Munich’s Theresienhöhe was one of the Deutsches Museum’s largest projects. For the first time, individual objects and technologies are viewed in their systemic and cultural contexts, showing transport as the network that it is.

Alongside historic exhibits and new technologies, the design and themes of the exhibitions facilitate unaccustomed insights into the transport world of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Examination of the historic roots and culturally historic dimensions of transport sheds a new light on our mobility today. This supports the search for innovative approaches in finding solutions to transport problems now and in the immediate future, whilst increasing awareness of potential mistakes.

The Transport Museum is a forum where the opportunities and prospects for transport development can be discussed in a knowledgeable and matter-of-fact way, impartially and objectively, as well as critically. Special exhibitions and events on topics relating to transport and mobility are an established feature of the Museum programme.

With this concept, the Transport Museum of the Deutsches Museum shows itself to be unique anywhere in the world – and Munich gains a leading centre for transport, a permanent venue for dialogue on the future of mobility.

The ambitious concept for the Transport Museum of the Deutsches Museum demands high and innovative quality in exhibition design and in the atmosphere created for live events. It is a museum that is both approachable and astounds, offering information to visitors of all ages and social groups in ways that are as lively and as exciting as possible. The exhibition concept and its actualisation set out to facilitate completely new experiences in the perception of transport: visitors will experience the system of transport brought to life and reality from many different angles.

The Transport Museum offers a kaleidoscope of themes that deal with examples designed to illustrate important aspects of transport development. Interesting objects, places, organisations, images and scenes from everyday transport situations are the stories told here, with visitors’ own day to day transport and mobility experiences as the key link for all exhibition modules. This approach is reflected in the breakdown by location and content into the following three blocks:
Hall I: Urban Transport

Grouped around the display collection, dedicated topic zones take an in-depth look at relevant aspects of urban transport, mostly from a contemporary angle and taking account of global perspectives:

• What do commuters in Munich and Delhi have in common?
• Is it still possible to plan traffic and transport?
• How much traffic can our environment tolerate?
• What will tomorrow’s urban transport be like?
• How far does transport activity penetrate the earth?

Hall II: Travel

The most important overland means of transport for travelling displayed here, from the days of the stagecoach through to the age of high-speed trains. The “Travel Gallery” and special subject zones help to bring to life and to explore the following aspects:

• How have perceptions of the world developed as a result of holiday travel?
• How has travel become a part of lifestyle and holiday-making?
• What kind of travel culture is linked to specific means of transport?
• How has mass tourism changed certain regions of the world?
• How do timetables get their timing right?
• What do railway stations and churches have in common?

Hall III: Mobility and Technology

Exhibits and demonstrations explore and clarify points such as:

• How the history of ice-skates and roller-blades relates to the pleasure of moving.
• The number of parts that go to make up a racing car and how motor racing has influenced the technology used for cars.
• What made Puffing Billy and the Benz motor car successful, but the Rumpler “Teardrop” a failure.
• What are the basics behind modern vehicle technology.
• What technical solutions could contribute to the sustainable structuring of mobility - and what are their limitations.

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