

Overview of Ancestral Remains in the anthropological collection of the Natural History Museum Basel

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Please note:

This list shows the number of collection catalogue entries per geographical unit. According to the current state of research, the geographical units correspond to countries that exist today. More precise geographical localization is the subject of ongoing provenance research.

The figures refer to collection catalogue (database) entries and may differ from the number of ancestors (skeletons/skeleton parts attributable to one person). Mostly, however, the human remains of only one individual are preserved under one collection number.

Regarding Ancestral Remains from colonial contexts:

Most of the Ancestral Remains from outside Switzerland have colonial provenances. This means that the place, year, and circumstances of acquisition coincide with historical colonial contexts.

Ancestral Remains with ambiguous geographical attribution are added to all potentially relevant geographical units.

The geographical indications on Ancestral Remains from colonial contexts is often vague, inaccurate, missing, or even incorrect. The figures published here are therefore subject to a margin of error.

The geographical origins of many Ancestral Remains are not documented. These are listed under *No continental reference / No geographical reference*.

Casts of human remains are listed in the separate category *Thereof number of casts*, but are also part of the *Total Number of Ancestral Remains*.

At the request of descendants and their representatives, the Natural History Museum Basel provides a list broken down by catalogue (database) entry/ancestor (with more precise geographical units, if available).

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Africa

Geographical Unit (Country)	Total Number of Ancestral Remains	Thereof number of casts
Algeria	1	0
Cameroon	3	0
Chad	1	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3	0
Egypt	30	0
Equatorial Guinea	1	0
Ethiopia	4	3
Gambia	1	0
Ghana	1	0
Kenya	14	14
Liberia	3	0
Mozambique	2	0
Namibia	1	0
Nigeria	4	0
South Africa	13	9
Sudan	2	0
Tanzania	6	6
Zambia	5	5
Africa without specific geographical reference	3	0

Americas

Geographical Unit (Country)	Total Number of Ancestral Remains	Thereof number of casts
Argentina	4	1
Chile	3	0
Guatemala	1	0
Canada	1	0
Mexico	3	0
Paraguay	3	0
Peru	30	1
Uruguay	3	0
USA	4	0
Venezuela	1	0
Americas without specific geographical reference	6	0

Asia

Geographical Unit (Country)	Total Number of Ancestral Remains	Thereof number of casts
China	17	12
India	3	2
Indonesia	203	13
Iran	1	0
Israel	1	1
Japan	6	0
Kazakhstan	1	0
Kyrgyzstan	1	0
Lebanon	1	0
Malaysia	6	0
Mongolia	1	0
Philippines	1	0
Russia	25	10
Sri Lanka	55	0
Türkiye	3	0
Asia without specific geographical reference	1	0

Europe

Geographical Unit (Country)	Total Number of Ancestral Remains	Thereof number of casts
Belgium	13	13
Germany	107	45
England	7	6
Estonia	4	0
Finland	2	0
France (excl. overseas territories)	75	43
Georgia	1	1
Gibraltar	2	2
Greece	11	0
Greenland	3	0
Ireland	2	1
Italy	55	15
Croatia	33	30
Malta	1	0
Austria	15	2
Poland	3	0
Scotland	1	0
Sweden	3	0
Switzerland	5326	28
Serbia	1	0
Spain (incl. Tenerife)	41	6
Czech Republic	15	13
Ukraine	2	1
Hungary	7	4
Europe without specific geographical reference	5	0

Oceania and Australia

Geographical Unit (Country)	Total Number of Ancestral Remains	Thereof number of casts
Australia	19	5
New Caledonia	342	0
New Zealand	2	0
Papua New Guinea	41	1
Solomon Islands	98	1
Tahiti	1	0
Vanuatu	644	0

No continental reference

Geographical Unit (Country)	Total Number of Ancestral Remains	Thereof number of casts
No geographical reference	197	47
No geographical reference, colonial context assumed	4	4