



EARLY CHRISTIAN BASILICA OF SAINT VIGILIUS

The museum is also responsible for the protection and maintenance of the archaeological site of the Early Christian Basilica of San Vigilio. The Early Christian Basilica of Saint Vigilius was built outside the city walls presumably around the end of the fourth century using sections of walls of earlier secular buildings. The structure's original purpose was to be a burial place for the missionaries in Anaunia Sisinius, Martyrius, and Alexander, murdered in the Val di Non by pagans on the 29th of May, 397. Alongside the martyrs, Vigilius, third bishop and patron saint of Trento, was also buried there. This ancient house of worship was initially a cemetery basilica, that is to say, a shrine with an essentially commemorative function. When, between the ninth and tenth centuries, the palatium episcopatus (bishop's palace) was transferred to its immediate vicinity, this building assumed the function of a cathedral church. True to the classic shape of Early Christian basilicas, it had an atrium - or perhaps a four-sided porch - attached to the front wall. The wall was pierced by three doors, the central of which is still functioning. The ancient basilica was about 43 meters long and 14 meters wide - a fairly large size for a hall church. Its floor was completely taken up by tombs set into the ground, all converging towards that of the patron saint. Fragments of a mosaic floor decoration have been found near the chancel, marked off by a step made of red stone, still showing the square cavities into which the little pillars supporting the pluteus were set. In the IX century, two side chapels with apses were added. In the XI century, the single large space was divided into a nave and two side aisles, and a crypt was dug out underneath, causing the chancel area to be raised. The final works on the building were concluded by Bishop Alemanno, who, on the 18th of November, 1145 reconsecrated the church in the presence of the Patriarch of Aquileia.

DIOCESAN MUSEUM OF TRENTO

Getting here

The Tridentine Diocesan Museum is located right downtown in Trento, next to the San Vigilio Cathedral.

Access for disabled visitors

The museum is accessible for wheelchair users and pushchairs, excluding the Cappella Palatina. Toilets on the ground floor are fully accessible. Please note that the museum is not accessible with motorized wheelchair.

Opening hours

10.00-13.00 / 14.00-18.00 (from 1 June to 30 September)
9.30-12.30 / 14.00-17.30 (from 1 October to 31 May)
Sunday 10.00-13.00 / 14.00-18.00

Closing days

Closed every Tuesday and on 1 January, 6 January, Easter Sunday, 26 June, 15 August, 1 November and 25 December

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Getting here

The Early Christian basilica is located underneath the Cathedral of Saint Vigilius, a short walk from the museum. The stairs leading down to it are in the corner of the north transept.

Access for disabled visitors

This area is not accessible to persons with motor disabilities.

Opening hours

10.00-12.00 / 14.30-17.30
Closed on Sundays and 1 January, 6 January, Easter Week, Easter Monday, 26 June, 15 August, 1 November, 25 December. Opening hours may vary due to liturgical needs.



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