



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

EARLY CHRISTIAN BASILICA OF SAINT VIGILIUS

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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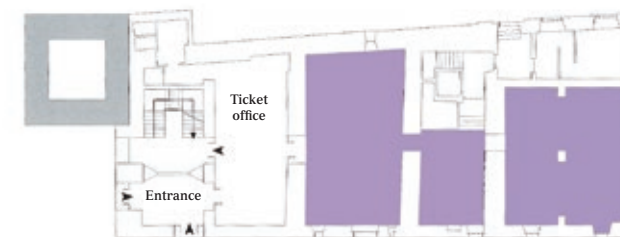


MUSEO DIOCESANO
TRIDENTINO



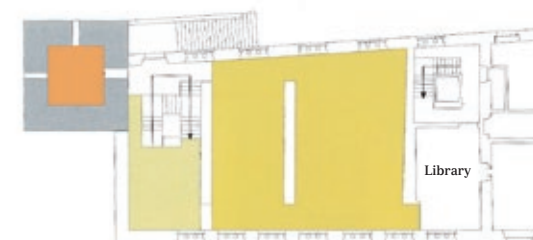
DIOCESAN MUSEUM OF TRENTO

The Diocesan Museum of Trento is located right downtown in Trento, close to the San Vigilio Cathedral, in the Palazzo Pretorio, which in the Upper Middle Ages was residence to the Prince-Bishops of Trento. The works on display cover a chronological span from the XIII through the XIX centuries, and bear witness to the rich local production of art and crafts as well as its complex relation with the bordering cultures of the Veneto, Lombardy, and Austria. The museum itinerary presents a selection of its most meaningful collections, organized in specific sections according to chronology, author, or cultural area. Some of the rooms are devoted to a single theme, such as the iconography of Council of Trento. For painting, the works on display offer an exhaustive overview of the local artist production from the Middle Ages to Neoclassicism. The wooden sculpture section presents some interesting examples of Flügelaltäre, “altars with wings”, made by prominent woodcarvers active in the Alto Adige region. A small room contains a display of rare and valuable illuminated manuscripts belonging to the cathedral. A rich collection of liturgical vestments documents the evolution of decorative styles from the XIV to the XIX century. The textile collection also includes tapestries illustrating Stories from the Passion of Christ, bought in Antwerp in 1531 by Prince-Bishop Bernardo Cles (1514-1539). The cycle, hailed by critics as “extraordinary and perhaps unique in Italy”, was made in Brussels in the workshop of Peter van Aelst, the most important tapestry producer of his time. The last section houses the treasure of the Cathedral of Trento, with precious examples of the jeweller’s art from the XII to the XIX century. Next to this section is displayed the exquisite embroidery illustrating Stories from the Life of Saint Vigilius (1390-1391). A truly amazing museum, not to be missed!



Ground Floor

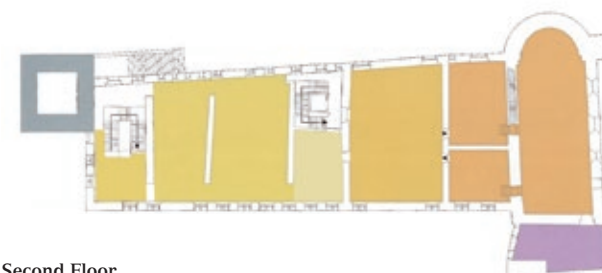
Exhibition gallery



First Floor

Illuminated manuscript
Illustrations of the Council of Trento

Painting (Fifteenth and Sixteenth century)

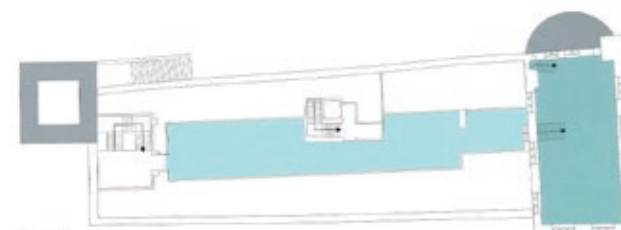


Second Floor

Painting (from Seventeenth to Eighteenth century)
Iconography of the Last Supper
Flemish tapestries

Wooden sculpture

History of the Cathedral of Saint Vigilius



Third Floor

Liturgical vestments

Cathedral treasury