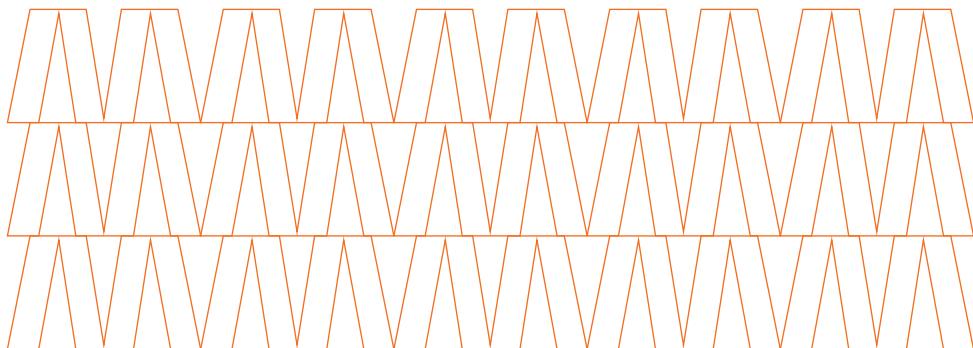


EN

WELCOME to the
Museum of Science and Archaeology



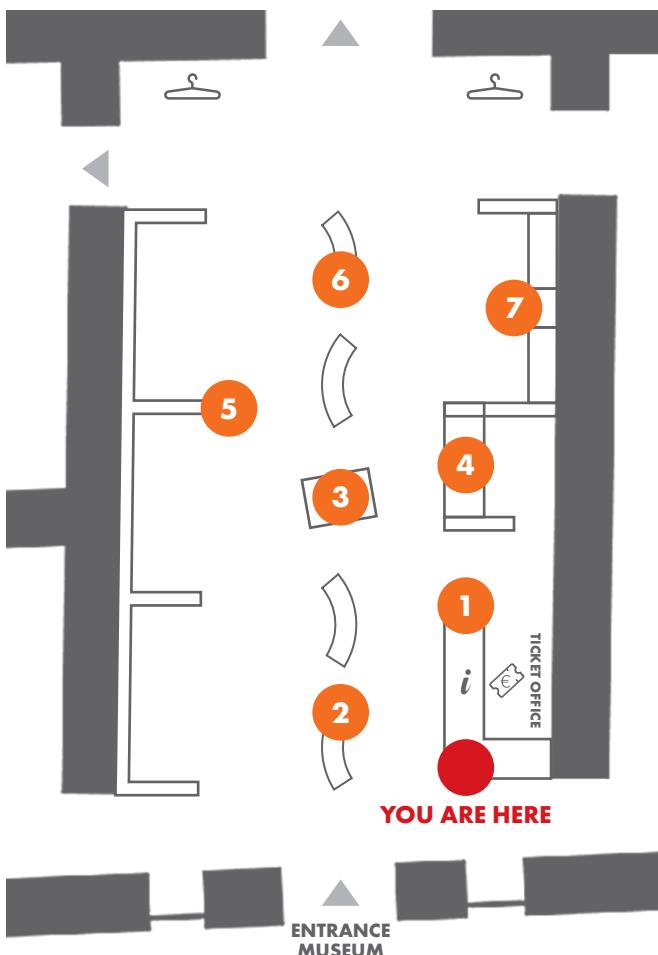
This guide will help you discover some aspects of the museum and the territory you are visiting. It contains a map of the floors and rooms with the indication of specific points. Each point tells a story, a connection with the Museum research, or the reality that surrounds us.



The Museum of Science and Archaeology of Rovereto has an ancient history, which began in 1851, but it looks to the future through research activities ranging from Botany and Zoology to Archaeology, from Geology to Astronomy. In the rooms, you can discover the museum's collections and research results: a path to explore the world around us through the stories revealed by the nature closest to us. In the Planetarium, you have the chance to satisfy your curiosity about deep space.

The journey starts at the entrance, where you can find an exhibit from each section of the museum. Donations, purchases, results of excavations, or collections for research and conservation purposes are our starting point.

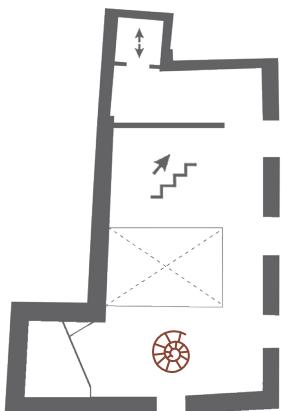
- 1 Archaeological artifacts found by ordinary citizens and handed in to the Museum, as Italian law considers them public property
- 2 *Inula Viscosa*, a Mediterranean plant identified in Trentino by the museum's botanical surveys
- 3 *Tridacna Gigas*, donated to the museum in 1883
- 4 Stones of Italy, a precious sample cabinet donated to the museum in 1865
- 5 Meteorites, Space rocks found in Libya
- 6 Skull of a cave bear found during a Museum excavation
- 7 Two-headed calf born in Aldeno in 1954, acquired for display



GARDEN



1 FIRST FLOOR



Astronomy



Botany



Mineralogy



Paleontology



From the World
to the Museum

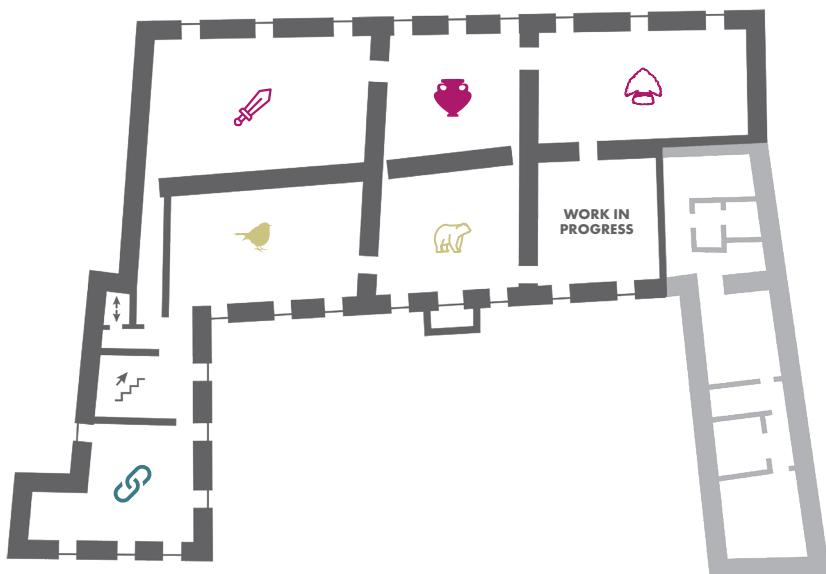


Zoology

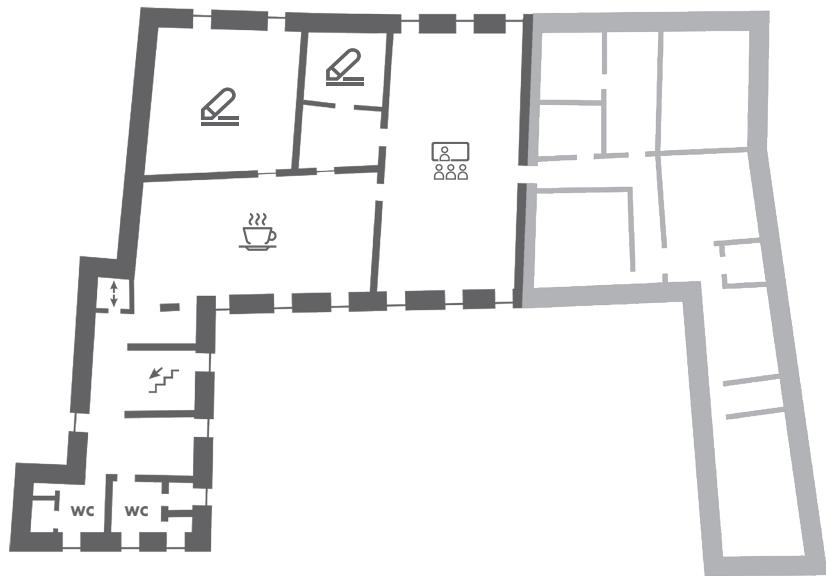


Archaeology

SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



WC ♂ ♀ ⚡

OUR ROOMS TELL...

Astronomy

In the garden, next to the model of the Lunar Rover, is the Planetarium with a sensory exhibit that tells the story of observation and exploration of Space, the elements of the Solar System, and what lies beyond.

You can listen, touch, and immerse yourself in the different atmospheres that take you on a journey from Earth into deep Space.

Botany

The room is dedicated to the plant world and to the wild plants of the Alpine arc. Its main theme is the connection between humans and the plant world. In addition to illustrating the history of botany and local flora, current issues such as climate change and the human impact on land use are explored. Particular interest is dedicated to dendrochronology, the science that studies the growth rings of trees, useful for archaeological dating and revealing valuable information about past climate changes.

Mineralogy

In this room we are guided through minerals, rocks, illustrating the geodiversity of the Trentino area and its evolution over time.

Paleontology

Among the most fascinating exhibits are local fossils, such as large ammonites and the cast of dinosaur footprints from the paleontological site of the Lavini di Marco, a few kilometers from Rovereto.

Collections from the World to the Museum

The room is dedicated to the artifacts that, since the 1800s, have enriched the museum's collections.

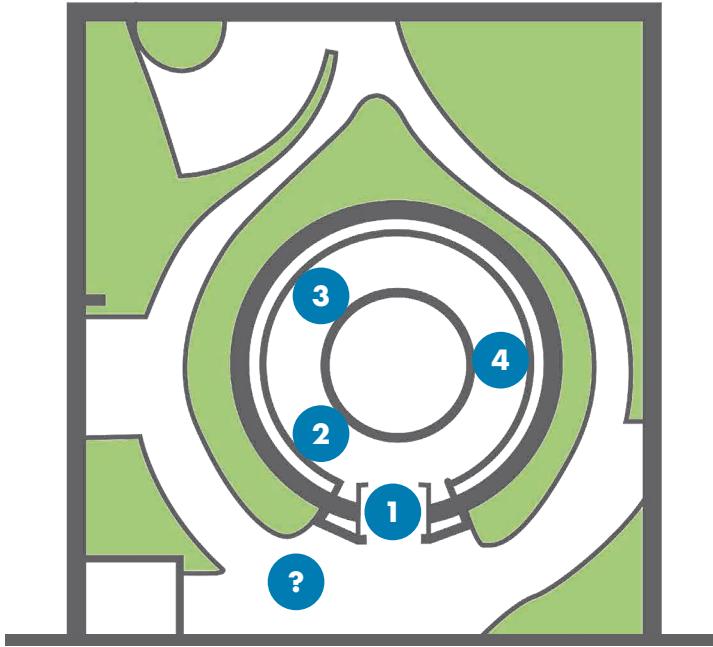
Exotic animals, archaeological and ethno-anthropological finds, unusual minerals from distant countries. The "From the World to the Museum" room is also a tribute to the community of Rovereto and its commitment to knowledge and history. It allows us to reflect on the role of museums in society, always in dialogue with their time, and on the importance of collective participation in the construction of knowledge.

Zoology

The rich zoological collection, with over 100,000 specimens (many of which are preserved in the deposits), tells the story of local and exotic animal species. A special focus of our research sector is on insects, especially those at risk of extinction, often overlooked but essential for the health of ecosystems.

Archaeology

Archaeology helps us reconstruct the past of Vallagarina, from Prehistory to the Middle Ages, with precious finds from important sites such as the Roman villa of Isera, one of the most important in Northern Italy, or from the Island of Sant'Andrea in the nearby Lake Loppio.



Curiosity

The Planetarium is named after Angioletta Coradini, a world-renowned scientist, born in Rovereto in 1946, who collaborated on numerous missions of the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA. The exhibition's circular trail also tells the stories of 6 other women scientists whose lives are linked to the study of the sky and space.

1

Human curiosity was the primary driver for observing the sky and asking questions. Starting from Earth, under our feet, and looking around us with increasingly complex instruments, we have managed to move from observation – the most important phases of whose evolution are described, as in the copy of the ancient Nebra sky disc created during the Bronze Age – to observation with telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope, which has been orbiting above our heads since 1990.

2

Observing the sky, the first element that has always attracted human beings is certainly our satellite, dreamed of by poets, musicians, and space engineers. How many songs have been dedicated to the Moon? What objects that we use every day were born from research related to robotic and space exploration? What do astronauts eat? What is the floor of a spaceship like? How many space missions have been made in the past, and what awaits us in the future? This area of the exhibit seems designed to answer these questions while in the background, we hear the voices of astronauts on a mission.

3

A small piece of the Moon that you can touch: originating from meteoritic events, it is a real lunar meteorite, that is, a fragment of the Moon that, due to the strong impact of another object on its surface, fell to Earth.

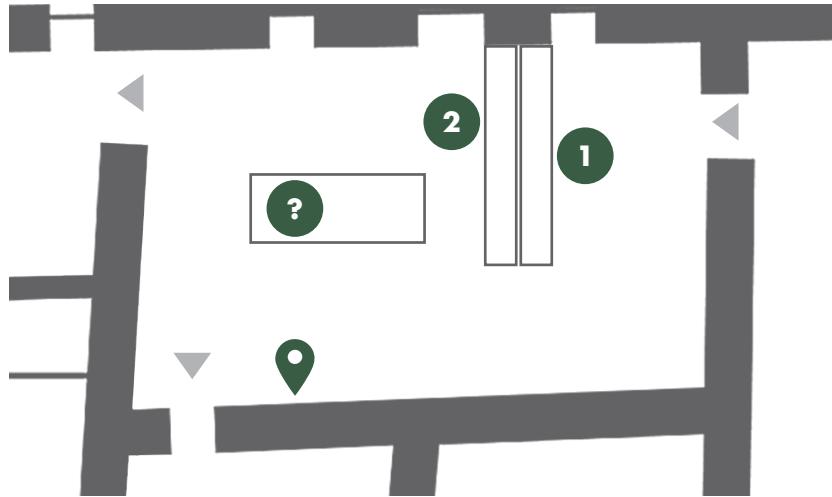
4

Can space exploration go even further? Your experience of space travel here, aided by VR viewers, takes you other stars, nebulae, galaxies, and clusters of galaxies to go ever further into the Universe.



THE PLACE

A few kilometers from Rovereto, our museum has its own **Astronomical Observatory on Monte Zugna**, a place with particularly low light pollution, ideal for stargazing.



Curiosity

The table in the centre of the room is dedicated to the various plant and animal species in the areas associated with the *Quercus* (Oak), a tree depicted on the city's coat of arms because the name Rovereto derives from *rovere*, a particular species of oak. The Romans identified the area as *Roboretum*, meaning a forest of *rovere*, still very much present in the valley today.

1

The sickle is the symbol of the complex relationship between humans and the plant world, which in mountain areas is closely linked to forestry and pastoralism. However, this relationship has changed over time. Some traditional practices have disappeared, hard-to-reach areas are being abandoned, and many typical meadow and pasture species, adapted to mowing and grazing, are declining.

2

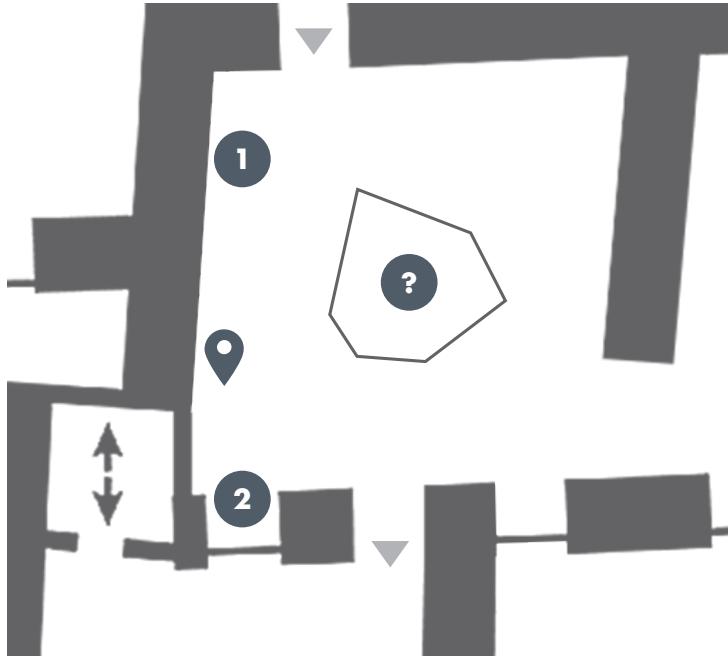
The large section on display was taken at a height of 13 m from a monumental silver fir from Lavarone, 52.15 m tall, between 220 and 250 years old, as big as 30 average firs. When it fell in 2017 brought down by the wind, it was one of the tallest trees in Italy. But how are these sections of trunks studied? Dendrochronology is the science that studies the growth rings of trees: each ring forms in one year, and its characteristics vary according to the climate, which is why they can give us valuable information about the climate of the past.



THE PLACE

Monte Baldo, a few kilometers from Rovereto, is nicknamed "The Garden of Europe" more than half of the floral species existing in the Alps grow there. It has been the subject of botanical studies since the Sixteenth Century due to the numerous and diverse botanical species it hosts, many of which are endemic, that is, found only in a specific territory.

The *Callianthemum kernerianum* lives only on stony ground in the highest parts of this mountain, between 1500 and 2200 meters above sea level: it is, therefore, a rare species threatened by climate change.



Curiosity

The table tells the story of the Earth's crust, the outermost layer of our planet. It is made up of magmatic rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks.

It is dynamic, divided into plates, and its continuous evolution leads to incessant transformation of the rocks through a cycle that has no beginning or end, called the lithogenic cycle.

To follow the video, open the drawer marked EN:
you will find the translation of the audio.

1

Antonio Pischedel was the first curator of mineralogy at the museum in the Nineteenth Century, who was responsible for the core of the collection of minerals and fossils, as well as the first catalogue with the list and description of the specimens preserved at the museum. Now, studies of mineralogy, petrography, and paleontology go far beyond the concept of collection and catalogue, dealing with everything that has produced the landscape and its forms: the formation of minerals, rocks, springs, rivers, and lakes. All of this expresses geodiversity, which is linked to biodiversity and contributes to determining the variety in Nature. The room, therefore, houses many rock samples related to the Trentino area, including stories of mines, building materials, and materials for artistic purposes.

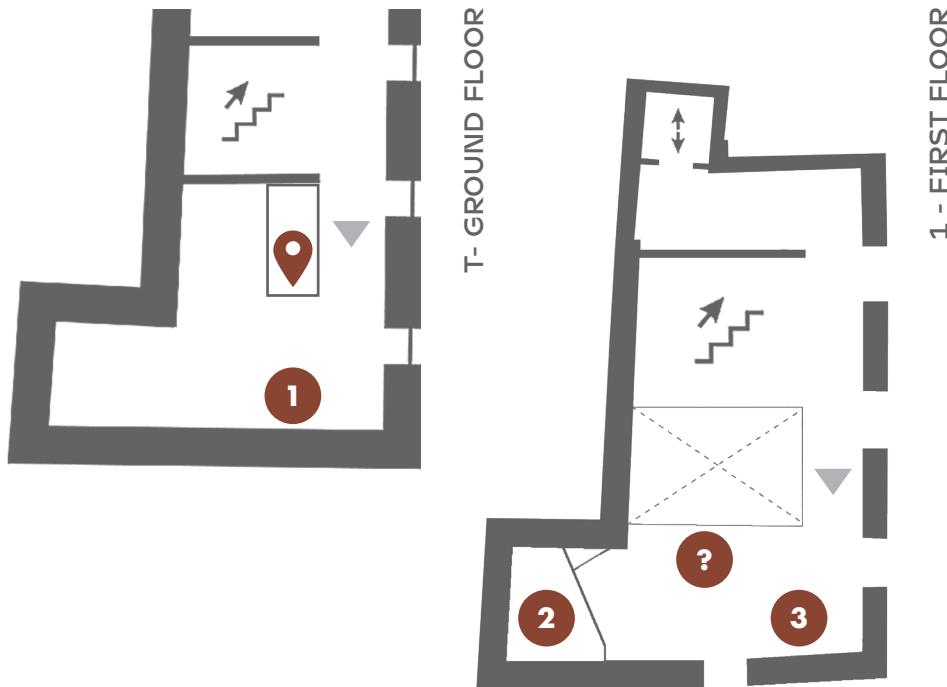
2

Since the Paleolithic, humans have left painted traces using colored earths, minerals ground to obtain very fine coloured powders used for millennia. Studies on the coloured pigments used in the frescoes of the Roman Villa of Isera, discovered a few kilometers from Rovereto, indicate their probable origin from rocks of Monte Baldo.



THE PLACE

A colour that has travelled throughout Europe from this area is a green earth derived from Celadonite, called Brentonico green after the name of the town where it was extracted. In Brentonico, Palazzo Eccheli Baisi, is named after a family enriched by the trade of this earth and houses the Fossil Museum and the large **Botanical Garden “Orto dei Semplici”** with the botanical species of Baldo.



Curiosity

The materials resulting from human activities are now part of the sedimentation process, even creating combinations called plastic/rock. What kind of “imprint” are we leaving? Science wonders if we are already living in a new era called the Anthropocene (from *anthropos*/human and *kainos*/recent): the debate about this definition is lively and ongoing, but it is undeniable that our footprint on Nature is pervasive and perhaps heavier than that of a dinosaur.

1

The large ammonite: ammonites are among the best known Index fossils, useful to define geological periods due to their short lifespan, wide distribution, and rapid evolution. These mollusks, now extinct, had tentacles and moved backward; they could also be very large, as can be seen from the large ammonite discovered accidentally during the construction of a wall for the vineyards and then donated to the Museum in 1875.

2

Paleontology studies the animals and plants that lived on Earth in past eras, but it doesn't stop at fossils from millions of years ago. To tell us what the landscape was like, there are also much more recent finds. About 20,000 years ago, caves were inhabited by large mammals like this impressive specimen of *Ursus Speleus*, a type of bear much larger than today's grizzlies that became extinct during the last ice age and was also preyed upon by *Homo Sapiens*.

3

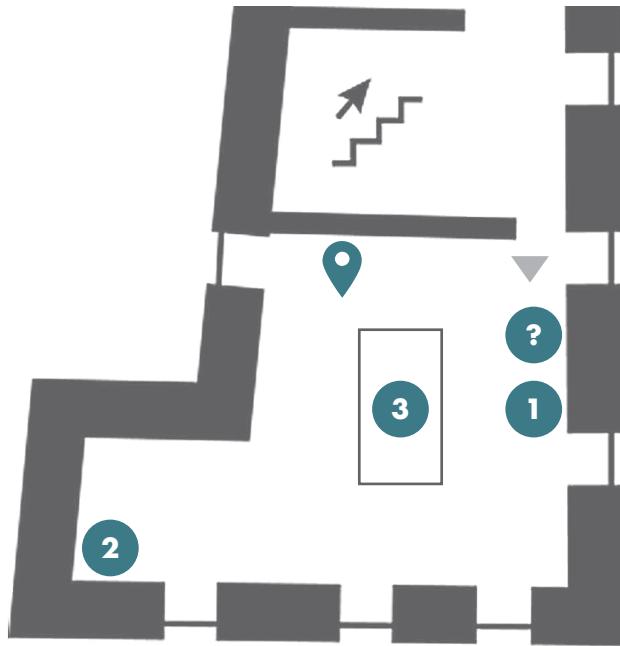
In this room, you can see the fossil of *Mene Rombea* from the Bolca fossil quarry in the province of Verona. It is one of the important fossil quarries in Europe, and its findings are astonishing for their perfect preservation.



THE PLACE

What you can see and is the cast of some of the dinosaur footprints that were left by carnivores and herbivores of different shapes and sizes at the **Lavini di Marco**, south of Rovereto.

The imprinted rock layers belong to the Jurassic, about 200 million years ago, and the video helps us to imagine the animals that left them and to understand the complex process of fossilization that allowed them to reach us.



Curiosity

This room resembles a Museum storage area, showcasing the accumulation of stories and collections and illustrating how the roles and narratives of a museum evolve over time.

It is important to remember that when an object is in storage, it is not forgotten it continues to be the subject of research and study.

1

This ritual painting depicting Chinese deities belongs to the Museum's earliest collections. At that time, the institution was a private entity called the "Civic Museum Society", operating when Trentino was under Austrian rule. This initial phase reflects the spirit of the time: in addition to local artifacts, the Museum has also acquired objects obtained through exchanges and the travels of private individuals, naturalists, and scholars.

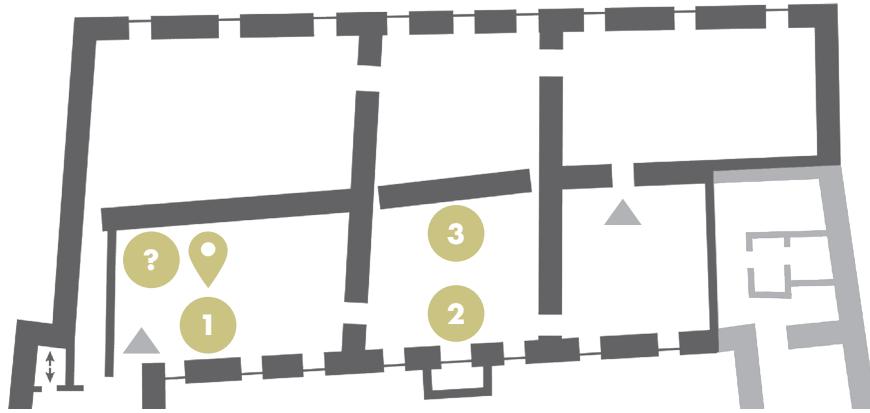
This period includes the expeditions to the East led by Giuseppe Grazioli, who travelled for research related to sericulture and the thriving silk industry in Rovereto. Upon returning, he often brought back works of art, handicrafts, and natural curiosities to donate to the Museum.

2

Exotic animals were once considered unusual curiosities, but in the past, their taxidermy often resulted in bizarre outcomes due to a lack of knowledge about their real appearance or the use of improvised taxidermy techniques with materials that changed over time. In recent times, most zoological specimens result from the accidental discovery of animals that died naturally or from taxidermy performed on animals born and dying in captivity such as the lion in this room, which lived in a circus.

3

The exhibit concludes with a display of objects from private collections. These artifacts were donated during the donors' lifetimes or through bequests, demonstrating the strong bond between the Museum and the local community. In the lower part of the display case, one can see numerous folders containing the books with the records of Cassiano Conzatti's Herbarium. A pedagogue and botany enthusiast who emigrated to Mexico in the late 19th century, Conzatti maintained close ties with the Museum, regularly sending samples of Mexico's rich flora. His work, *Flora Taxonomica Mexicana*, was published by his daughter, who further strengthened her relationship with the Museum, and helped establish a twinning agreement in 2015 between the Vallagarina Community and the Mexican city of Oaxaca.



Curiosity

One part of the research activities undertaken in recent years has been dedicated to the study of animal behaviour. The aim is to study the performance of animal species from a comparative perspective, including the human species in this comparison process.

1

The Museum's bird collection is among the most important regional collections in northern Italy: it includes over 1,200 bird specimens, including rarities, and 77 nests and eggs. Among these specimens, the Eagle Owl is certainly one of the most fascinating birds of prey. It has a wingspan of 1.60 to 2.0 meters, with females being slightly larger than males.

2

Among the herbivorous mammals, deer are certainly the most majestic species present in the Alpine arc, but in the province of Trento in the early decades of the 19th century, deer could be considered almost extinct, probably due to both environmental changes and the effects of excessive hunting in previous centuries. Now the number has grown again; in some cases, it is thought to be too high and risks damaging the ecosystems. Finding a balance is not easy.

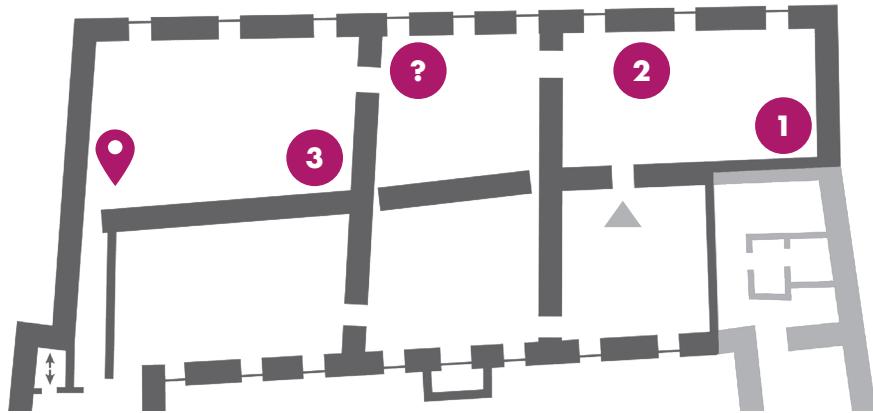
3

Who's afraid of the wolf? A symbolic animal and also one persecuted by prejudice, it intrigues us perhaps because it resembles the dog so much and is at the same time so different. Wolves had disappeared from Trentino for about 150 years because of humans, but they reappeared from 2008 through spontaneous returns. To distinguish them from dogs, you can observe the tail, which is generally shorter and has a black tip, the short and wide set ears, the light mask on the muzzle, the dark bands on the front legs, and the broad, massive, and robust head shape. The tracks are difficult to distinguish from those of a dog.



THE PLACE

The **Adige Valley** can be compared to a highway for migratory birds that move along the course of the river and use the air currents. Some species are now less present, often due to human causes, but this is not the case with the Grey Herons that can be encountered along the entire course of the river. Throughout the valley, you can find biotopes, protected wetlands, where you can observe the passage and resting of birds.



Curiosity

Paolo Orsi was a great archaeologist born in Rovereto who conducted important excavations and discoveries, especially in southern Italy. His collection, donated to the Museum upon his death in 1935, includes objects of various types: vases, plastic decorations, small statues, and many coins referable to the period of Greek colonization of Italy. But what were all these "little heads"? Originally, they were parts of small statues probably donated as votive offerings in temples and perhaps broken centuries later for the antiquities market. The collection offers the opportunity to observe artifacts related to the Greek world and reflect on the evolution of the figure of the archaeologist from the 19th century to today.

1

In the long history of human settlements in the area, the stele statue of Brentonico represents one of the most fascinating finds and is the only one found in this part of Trentino.

These ancient anthropomorphic stone slabs are decorated with symbolic elements. In this case, we can clearly see the hands that perhaps hold a dagger, the arms, and the lower part of the face. Who does it represent? A hero, a warrior, or a deity? Its identity is lost in the past.

2

Many centuries later, during the Bronze Age, who did this sword belong to? It was found in the area of a mountain pass in Vezzena and was part of a ritual deposit, along with other bronze weapons. However, what is striking about this find is the excellent state of preservation of all its parts, including the decorations on the hilt.

3

In Vallagarina finds related to small Roman-era residential or production sites have been found. The roman Villa of Isera, for example, was a *villa rustica*, that is, a farm with a manor house and residential buildings. It had precious furnishings and decorations worthy of a large city. The quality of its frescoes seems to be comparable to the workshops of southern Italy in terms of type and richness.



THE PLACE

Most of the medieval finds on display come from **the Island of Sant'Andrea in Lake Loppio**. Traces of activity and human settlements range from Prehistory to World War I. During the 5th-7th centuries, the Lombards built a small fortress there to control the road to Lake Garda. The lake Loppio has changed a lot since then has continued to change; it was drained in 1958 due to the construction of a tunnel, and today the level of the water is variable. It is one of the largest provincial biotopes, with flora and wildlife typical of wetlands.

THE MUSEUM OUTSIDE



- 1 - CITY MUSEUM
- 2 - MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ARCHAEOLOGY
- 3 - SPERIMENTAREA
- 4 - ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF MONTE ZUGNA
- 5 - LAVINI DI MARCO
- 6 - ISLAND OF SANT'ANDREA IN LAKE LOPPIO
- 7 - BOTANICAL GARDEN "ORTO DEI SEMPLICI" - BRENTONICO

2,8 km

18,7 km

7,2 km

13,1 km

15,2 km

↑ TRENTO

Many of the places we have talked about
– botanical gardens, paleontological trails,
archaeological sites – are not very far
from the city.

6

VALLE DELL'ADIGE

Mori

Loppio

2

1

3

Rovereto

5

Marco

Lizzana

Albaredo

Brentonico

7

MONTE ZUGNA

4

↓ VERONA



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THE PLACES IN THE TERRITORY
CURATED BY THE FONDAZIONE
MUSEO CIVICO OF ROVERETO

NOTES

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