

THE LIBRARY

The scientific library was born from the desire of its founders who, out of their own pockets, bought the first books for the study of the sciences. With time, the library of the Museum of Natural History in Trieste has expanded and is one of the most important research libraries in Italy, its 5 kilometres (3 miles) of shelves hold more than 2 million volumes that retell science from its beginnings through to the present day, especially with regard to Venezia Giulia (the area around Trieste and city's hinterland), the Eastern Alps and the Adriatic. The library has a reading room for free consultation of texts. For 170 years The Museum has published the "Atti del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale", the "Proceedings of the Civic Museum of Natural History", the longest running scientific journal in the region.

NATUR DESK

know, recognize, live and manage science and nature

In addition to the exhibition of specimens, research, preservation and education, the Museum offers "instructions" for a better understanding and correct use of the environment, the landscape, scientific knowledge and resources.

The Nature Desk provides:

- advice and expertise on various aspects of nature including information on plants and animals that are "unknown" or considered harmful, the recognition of rocks and fossils, nestboxes and organic gardening through to wildlife management;
- specialist training for teachers, environmental police, forestry workers, farmers, the managers of protected areas, associations and citizens' groups;
- scientific assistance in environmental projects, theses and research;
- the management, study and restoration of natural and urban areas;
- popular events covering science and natural history in the Meeting Room of the Museum.



Museum of Natural History in Trieste

Via dei Tominz, 4 - 34139 – Trieste

tel +39 0406754603/8662 fax +39 0406758230

sportellonatura@comune.trieste.it

www.museostorianaturaletrieste.it



How to get on bus

Buses **11** : **22**:

"Scala Bonghi" bus-stop in via Revoltella, following the tourist signs, going down via Barison and the steps to via Grünhut and via dei Tominz.

Bus **18** (or **5** in certain summer periods):

The "Archivio di Stato" bus stop, continue along via Scomparini until the second to right, via dei Tominz.



Thanks to



www.trasformazioni-ts.it

alder



museo del malcantone



comune di trieste

**MUSEO
CIVICO
STORIA
NATURALE
TRIESTE**



science bite • in preda alla scienza



CIVIC MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Founded in 1846, it is the oldest and most important Science Museum in the area, with over 2 million specimens, mostly from the Adriatic and the Karst. The museum is especially famous for owning and displaying some great finds and specimens.

The **dinosaur Antonio**, known to science as **Tethyshadros insularis**, is the largest and most complete Italian dinosaur, but also one of the most important paleontological discoveries in Europe. The only one of its genus of all the known dinosaurs in the world and the only complete specimen ever found of this species, it is an original and indigenous fossil, found in the coastal cliffs of the Villaggio del Pescatore (20 km NW of Trieste).

From prehistory and from this area (in this case, from Slovenian Istria) comes yet another exhibit that is unique in human history **Lonche Man**, the oldest example of the use of beekeeping for dental care. It is a human jawbone from more than 6,400 years ago, which has a dental filling medicated with beeswax.

Finally, from the North Adriatic, we have **Carlotta**: an imposing female **Great White Shark**, 5.4 m (almost 18 ft) long. Caught by an adventurous captain in 1906, it is the largest and most spectacular shark carnivore in Europe and the second largest in the world, among those that are fully preserved.

HISTORY

In 1846, on the initiative of private citizens, the museum was set up as the “Gabinetto Zoologico Zootomico” – the “Zootomic Zoological Cabinet”. In 1852 it was donated

to the city of Trieste and in 1855, under the protectorate of the Hapsburg Archduke of Austria, became known as the “*Ferdinand Maximilian Civic Museum*”.

This was followed by numerous donations and collections of specimens together with expeditions (such as that of the “*Fregata Novara*” which involved 3 years of scientific studies from around the world) and large-scale campaigns and preparation of marine animals. But the Museum continues to add thousands of local botanical, geological and paleontological specimens and to update its specialist multilingual library. With the passage of Trieste to Italy (1918), the Museum took its current name and many artefacts arrived from African expeditions. In 1992, the Museum began the paleontological excavation for the recovery of the dinosaurs in Duino. The current headquarters of Trieste’s Civic Museum of Natural History were inaugurated in 2010.

What a contemporary museum represents today, is well defined by the International Council of Museums: “*A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.*”

COLLECTION

The collections are the assets around which the activities of a museum revolve and the collections of the Museum of Natural History in Trieste can be considered among the most important in Italy.

They are divided into two groups with different functions and purposes. One is represented by the collections for display and education, essential for admiration and science

education. The other is represented by the collections for study and research which, although less visible, holds the scientific archive of a civilization and an area, available to students and researchers.

The Museum’s collections are represented by thousands of specimens from the fields of **Botany, Zoology, Paleontology, Mineralogy, Geology, Marine Biology and Human Evolution**.

VISITING

Apart from the dinosaur Antonio, the Shark Carlotta and Lonche Man, at the Museum you can admire: the *Wunderkammer* (or **Room of Wonders**) with original exhibits from every continent, reconstructing the *Wunderkammer* from the dawn of science museums. Then there is the faithful rearrangement (always with original and period furnishings) of the **Zoological Cabinet** that two centuries ago gave rise to this very Museum of Trieste. In the dinosaur halls we can find not only Antonio, but also the *Acynodon adriaticus*, an extraordinary **fossil crocodile** and oyster-eater and the ancient Marchesetti’s *Carsosaurus* (a mysterious primitive marine reptile). On the upper floor there are also the rooms on the Evolution of Man (with all the major stages of the development of our species), the rooms displaying the **Giants of the Earth and Sea** (elephants, Monk Seals, whales and the mythical Narwhal the unicorn of the sea), the **Theatre of Skeletons** and the room displaying the **Cycle of Life**. At the end you’ll find yourself immersed in the sea, amidst sharks, corals, giant crabs and the **Coelacanth**, an ancestral fish from the abyss and a true living fossil.

