

SERVICES

museum

bookshop | English audio guides | differently-abled access | cloakroom | guided tours | workshops | conferences | education services for schools | exhibition activities | event venue rentals | conservation laboratory | photo archive | archive | consultancy service on collections | QR code | free WiFi

library

open-stack consultation room | reading room | specialized reference desk | reproduction and document delivery | free WiFi

how to get here

The museum is in the center of Bologna, just steps from Piazza Maggiore.

on foot> from railway or bus station, take Via Indipendenza to Piazza Maggiore, then turn left under the Portico del Pavaglione | approx. 1.5 km

by bus> take any line that stops near Piazza Maggiore

by car> the museum is in a restricted-traffic area. Exit from the Bologna ring road (Tangenziale) towards the city center. Pay parking: Piazza VIII Agosto and Staveco



Museo Civico Archeologico
(Archaeological Museum)
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mca@comune.bologna.it
www.museibologna.it/archeologicoen

 Museo Civico Archeologico di Bologna

 Museo Civico Archeologico Bologna

Info and opening hours:



Full fee € 6 | Reduced fee € 3
Free admission for Card Cultura

Library
via de' Musei 8 | 40124 Bologna
Tuesday and Thursday: 9 am > 2 pm
Wednesday: 9 am > 2 pm
reservation required



Updated to November 2021



Museo Civico
Archeologico

Bologna's Archaeological Museum is located in the city's old Ospedale della Morte (Hospital of Death), which dates to the 15th century. Inaugurated in September 1881 and forming part of the municipal museum network **Istituzione Bologna Musei**, it hosts one of Italy's major collections of antiques. Its holdings comprise:

- **A wealthy of documentation on the history of Bologna and its territory from pre-historic times to Roman period**, the fruit of excavations starting in the second half of the 19th century;
- **A substantial core collection**, made up of the University collections of Aldrovandi, Cospi, Marsili, Lambertini and the fine collection of the Bolognese painter Pelagio Palagi. These collections comprise Egyptian, Prehistoric, Greek, Roman and Etruscan antiquities. The Egyptian collection is the third largest in Italy.

The visitor may follow two principal itineraries: one for the **HISTORY OF BOLOGNA** and one for the **COLLECTIONS**.

● MUST-SEE WORKS

1. Horemheb reliefs (Egyptian collection)
2. Blue ushabti of Sety I (Egyptian collection)
3. Torso of Nero (Lapidarium, lobby)
4. Hercules from Villa Cassarini (Etruscan Bologna, Room IA)
5. Tomb Lippi 85 from Verucchio (Verucchio, Room III)
6. Benacci askos (Etruscan Bologna, Room X)
7. Tintinnabulum (Etruscan Bologna, Room X)
8. Certosa situla (Etruscan Bologna, Room X)
9. Ducati 168 stele (Etruscan Bologna, Room X)
10. Great Tomb (Etruscan Bologna, Room X)
11. Tomb Benacci 953 (Gallic Bologna, Room XI)
12. Beverara mosaic (Roman Bologna, Room XII)
13. Athena Lemnia (Greek collection, Room V)
14. Roman emperors' coins (Roman collection, Room IX)
15. Statue of a Boread (Etrusco-Italic collection, Room VIII)

BASEMENT FLOOR

THE COLLECTIONS. Egyptian collection

First we find the limestone reliefs from the tomb of General Horemheb at Saqqara (reign of Tutankhamun, 1332-1323 BC): Horemheb would later be the last Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty. A chronological itinerary takes us from the Predynastic to the Ptolemaic-Roman age, displaying vases, steles, bright-colored sarcophagi, a number of funerary statues (*ushabt*), votive bronze miniatures and other decorative objects. Of special interest is the royal statuary, with idealized portraits of the Pharaohs Neferhotep I, Thutmose III, Amenhotep III or IV and Apries.

GROUND FLOOR

THE COLLECTIONS - HISTORY OF BOLOGNA. Lapidarium

The lobby and courtyard contain Roman funeral monuments and steles from the city of Bologna and its surroundings, dating from the middle of the 1st century BC to the mid-2nd century AD, plus a series of milestones from the Via Emilia. The sculptures include a torso with armor, part of a statue of the Emperor Nero (mid-1st century AD), found in the Roman theater.

FIRST FLOOR

HISTORY OF BOLOGNA

Room I. Bologna and its territory: Prehistoric era

Artifacts testifying to the human presence in the area of Bologna from the lower Paleolithic (800,000 years ago) up to the dawn of history (Final Bronze Age, 10th century BC).

Room IA. Etruscan Bologna: from villages to city

This is the start of the exhibits tracing the birth and development of Etruscan Bologna (from the 9th to the

4th century BC), with dwelling and productive artifacts from the earliest Villanovan phase villages (9th and 8th centuries BC) to those of the archaic and classical city, what the ancients called *Felsina* (6th to 4th centuries BC)

Room III. Verucchio

The visitor can compare the Etruscans of Bologna with those of Verucchio in Romagna, with finds from necropolis excavations, including an exceptionally fine 7th-century wooden throne, part of the rich burial equipment of an Etruscan aristocrat.

Rooms XA and X. Etruscan Bologna: the necropolises

The exhibition room and the large gallery, decorated with splendid 19th-century paintings, host a large collection of burial objects that retrace the historical, social and economic evolution of Etruscan Bologna. The earliest phase, so-called Villanovan phase, in the 9th and 8th centuries BC, is documented by cremation tombs, with terracotta or laminated bronze ossuaries. Fine examples of the subsequent "Orientalising" phase (7th century) are the funeral steles decorated with fantastic animals. From the mid-6th century, *Felsina* becomes a city, surrounded by its necropolises, with tombs marked by sandstone steles with bas-reliefs. The tombs contain fine Attic pottery and bronze vases, including the Certosa situla (first half of the 6th century BC), a refined, embossed laminate vessel used as a funeral urn.

Room XI. Gallic Bologna

Etruscan Bologna was overrun in the early part of the 4th century BC by the invasion of the Boii, a Celtic tribe that settled in the area until the beginning of the 2nd century BC. The museum has funeral objects from this phase, with iron weapons in the transalpine tradition.

Room XII. Roman Bologna

With the defeat of the Celts at the start of the 2nd century, in 189 BC the Romans founded the colony of

Bononia. The room displays objects that give the viewer a good idea of the public and private lives of the ancient city's inhabitants.

THE COLLECTIONS

Room II. Prehistoric comparisons

Materials from the collection of the geologist Giovanni Capellini, plus several smaller collections, including a donation from Heinrich Schliemann, the discoverer of Troy.

Room IV. Plaster cast collection

19th-century copies of famed Greek and Roman sculptures.

Rooms V and VI. The Greek collection

Here we find the marble head of Athena Lemnia, an Augustan copy of the Greek bronze original by Phidias (5th century BC). There is a rich collection of pottery, most notably Athenian (from the late 6th and 5th centuries BC), plus a large number of vessels produced in Southern Italy in the late 5th and 4th centuries.

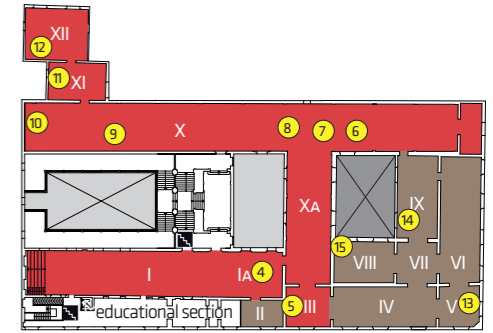
Rooms VII and IX. The Roman collection

It includes ceramic and glass vases, household decorations, bronze figurines, lamps and objects of daily use. In particular, note the paleo-Christian diptychs and ivories, decorated with both sacred and profane motifs, from the 5th century AD. The marble sculptures comprise reliefs, statues, public and private portraits. There are a number of gold and silver coins ranging from the 1st century BC to the 4th century AD, part of a vast collection comprising 100,000 coins, medals and coin dies.

Room VIII. The Etrusco-Italic collection

Note the bucchero pottery from Chiusi, terracotta and marble Etruscan urns, etched mirrors and in relief, including the famous etched mirror known as the "Cospi patera" (mid 4th century BC), from the name of Ferdinando Cospi, its first owner.

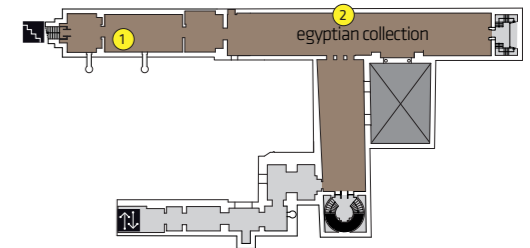
first floor



ground floor



basement floor



■ HISTORY OF BOLOGNA ■ THE COLLECTIONS ● MUST-SEE WORKS

