

Museum of Blacksmiths' Art and Cutlery

Photo by: Denis Scarpante

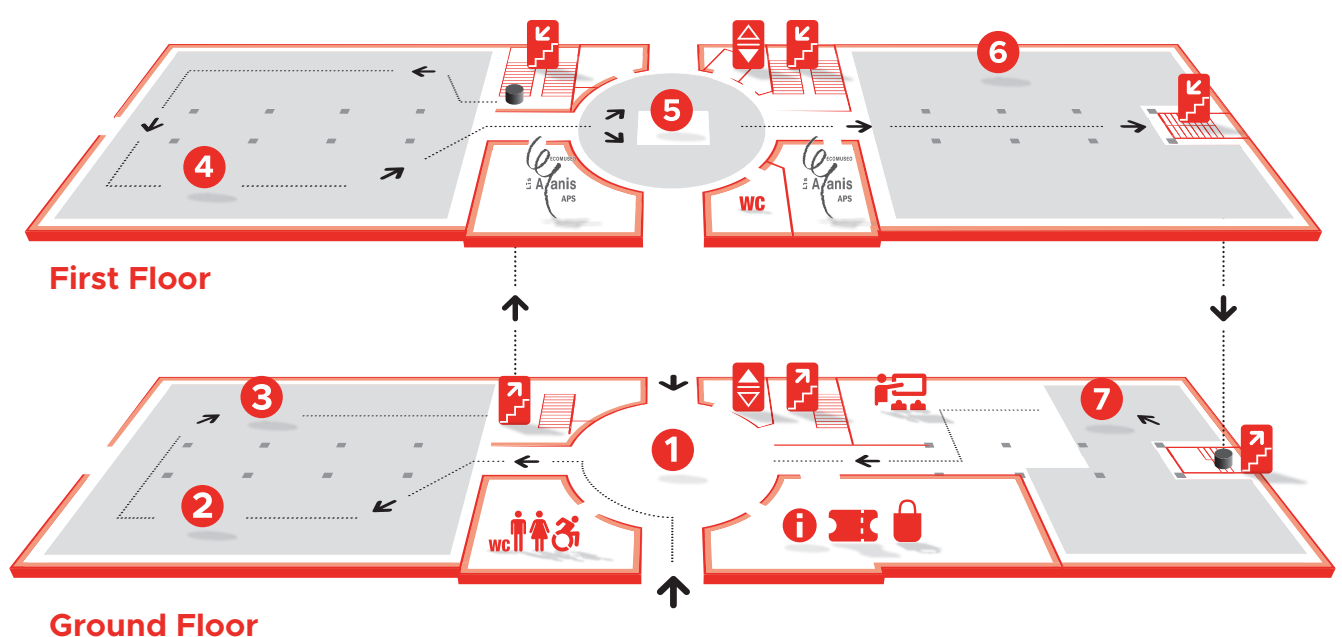
The museum premises

The Museum of Blacksmiths' Art and Cutlery is based in a building that is one of the emblems of Maniago's blacksmithing history: the large factory that was first opened by Co.Ri.Ca.Ma. (Associated Cutlery Manufacturers of Caslino and Maniago) in 1907. In a town where little family-run artisan workshops could be found in every house and courtyard, the factory provided employment for hundreds of men and women until it closed in 1972. The derelict building was later bought by the town council and renovated. It was a natural choice for the home of the museum and since 2009 it has hosted a fascinating, compelling exhibition that presents an overview of the roots and developments in local and industrial blade manufacturing.

The history of Maniago's knife makers is one of the distinctive features of the town's identity. The museum is a place "where the local people are reflected and have a chance to reflect in order to get to know themselves and the area where they live better; (...) it's a mirror that the local people show to visitors to give them a better understanding of their activities, their conduct and their private lives."

G. H. Rivière, 1989

Exhibition route



1 Lobby

In the entrance, the history of Maniago is reflected by faces, actions, places and pictures of those at the heart of local blacksmithing traditions.

2 The wizard's forge

From the first hammer mills built alongside the mill race fed by the Cólvera stream in 1453, to the modern metalworking and processing industry, the first part of the exhibition looks back at the different historical periods in production, the environments, the tools and the know-how of the blacksmiths of Maniago (known locally as "fávrís").

3 From obsidian to metal oxide

It is likely that the necessity to cut things was one of the very first needs felt by human beings. This section gives visitors a chance to experiment and analyse the materials, shapes, sizes and ergonomics of cutting tools as they have evolved over the years, focusing in particular on two key components: blades and handles.

6 Armando Pizzinato Room

This room is home to an exhibition that stems from the LAMEMORIA community project. It is a part of the museum where the people of Maniago can share memories, objects, oral and written accounts, and photographs of life in the past and the present in places where manufacturing work is done by blacksmiths.

7 Local interpretation centre

A place to discover and interpret the territory through its different crafts.

4 From functions to training

Over the years, the range of items manufactured locally has included everything from tools for farmers and specific trades, to a new, more varied selection of utensils in which industrial design plays a crucial role. The items on display bear witness and contribute to the ceaseless changes in the world, while also underlining the constant capacity of Maniago's artisans and its small production scene to keep up with them.

5 Knives as symbols

Knives are utensils that are indispensable in everyday life but they can also be dangerous weapons. This area illustrates their ambivalent nature as symbolic items, presenting examples from classical mythology, the history of art and folklore.

Key

i Information

▲ Lift

🎫 Ticket Office

🏠 Stairs

♿ Toilets

📺 Conference Room A multi-purpose room for educational activities, exhibitions, meetings and conventions.

🛒 Shop In the museum shop, you can buy products made by the cutlery manufacturers of Maniago and publications about the history of blacksmithing in the town.

Sede Associazione Lis Aganis Ecomuseo delle Dolomiti Friulane APS

Italian National Knife Records Centre

In 2016, the Italian National Knife Records Centre began work on a scientific research project.

In an online archive, it gathers documentary resources of various kinds that enable not only technical know-how but also cultural and social activities from the world of blacksmithing to be explored. The archive is open in terms of both the materials shared and the contents produced.

<http://documentazionecoltello.maniago.it>

Maniago, Capital of Cutlery Manufacturers



1 Museum



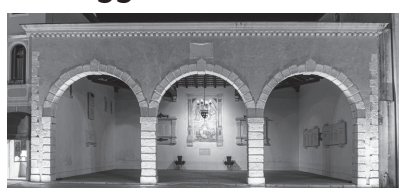
2 Cathedral of San Mauro



3 Fountain



4 Loggia



5 Palazzo d'Attimis



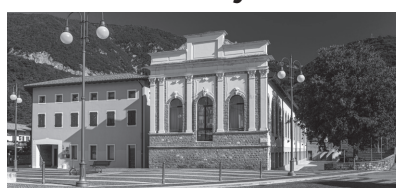
6 Castle



7 Visitor centre



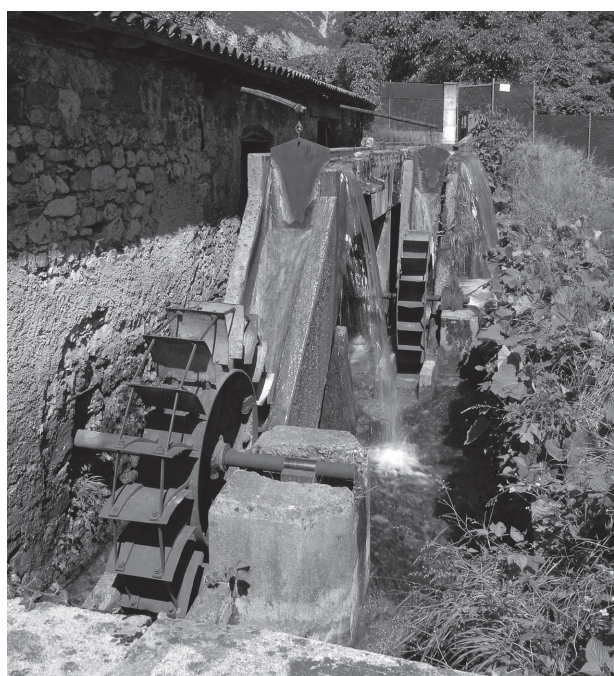
8 Public library



9 'G. Verdi' theatre



10 Colvera mill race



The story of the blacksmiths of Maniago all began back in 1453, when Count Nicolò di Maniago had the water of the Colvera stream channelled into a mill race. The first hammer mills were then built, harnessing the power of the water to drive large trip hammers.

In this way, the production of tools was mechanized by the local blacksmiths (known as "favris da gros"). This metalworking experience paved the way to the opening of hundreds of workshops in local homes, where finished items with blades – such as knives and scissors – were made.

Teaching and educational services

The Museum has always considered opening up to the world of schools and education to be an essential part of what it does. It plans, organizes, coordinates, promotes and runs educational, teaching, training and research initiatives in conjunction with schools of all kinds for students of all ages, as well as universities, bodies from the voluntary sector and all other visitors. The staff will be happy to help to arrange individually tailored activities.



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Opening hours and ticket office
Visit the website:
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or scan the QR code.



The museum is a member of

