

Museum of Blacksmiths' Art and Cutlery

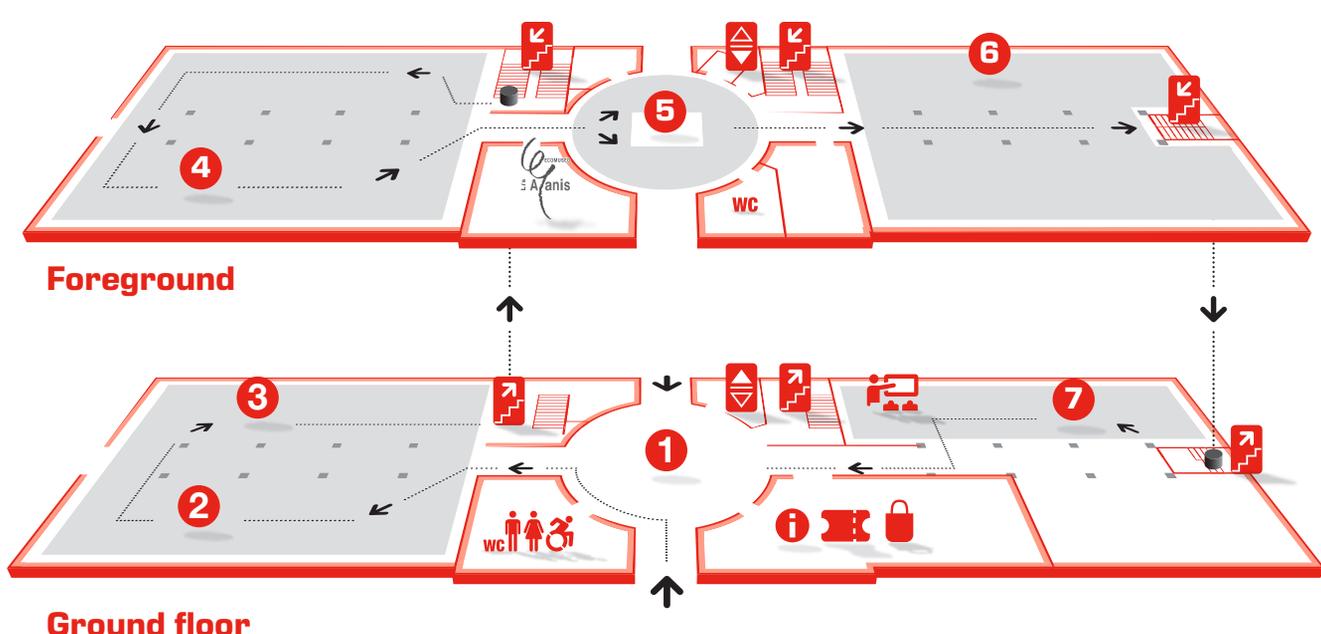
The Museum

The Museum of Blacksmiths' Art and Cutlery is located in a symbolic space of the smithing history of Maniago: a large industrial factory which began its activity called Coricama (Coltellerie Riunite di Caslino e Maniago) in 1907. In a town where, in every house and small courtyard, family run workshops - this factory employed hundreds of workers (both female and male) until its closure in 1972. Purchased from the city and recovered from a state of abandonment, it became the natural site of the Museum, hosting since 2009, a fascinating exhibition with the roots and developments of the local industrial production of cutting tools.

The community of Maniago recognizes as distinctive trait of identity its history of its blacksmiths. The Museum is the place "where the population can reflect and recognize each other. In this way, the people can come to know their history and learn about the territory in which it is rooted (...). The Museum mirrors what its guests see and makes them better understand the activities, behaviors and intimacy of the community."

G. H. Rivière, 1989

Sections of the exhibition



1 Hall

At the entrance we come into contact with the history of the city of Maniago. Here we can find faces, gestures, places and images of the main characters of the local exhibit tradition.

2 The Magician's Forge

The first part of the exhibit reconstructs the history of the first blacksmiths (in Italian called "Fabbri") living along the small canals ("roggia") derived from the Colvera torrent in 1453, to the industry and today's metalworking. The exhibits display historical-productive phases, the environments, the instruments and the knowledge of the

blacksmiths based in Maniago ("Favris" in the friulian language).

3 From obsidian to metallic oxide

To cut was probably among the first necessities that man had. In this section we can experiment and analyse materials, shapes, dimensions and ergonomics of the sharp objects in their historical evolution, especially the blade and its handle as essential components.

4 From function to shape

The history of local production goes from farming implements (or for specific crafts), to new and more unique utensils, in which

design plays a decisive role. The objects exhibited are witnesses and agents of the continuous renewal of the world. At the same time, they are a proof of the ability to adapt continuously to the changing society of the craftsmen of Maniago city.

5 The knife as a symbol

The knife as a symbolic object is illustrated here in its ambivalence: an indispensable tool in everyday life and, at the same time, a dangerous weapon. Here we can also find examples from classical mythology, from the history of art and from folk traditions.

Legend

i Information

T Ticket office

E Elevator

S Stairs

WC Toilet

C Conference room

S Shop

In the shop of the Museum you can buy the products of Maniago's cutlery and editorial materials on the smithing history.

Lis Aganis Ecomuseo delle Dolomiti Friulane

6 "Armando Pizzinato" room

For temporary exhibitions.

7 Centre for interpreting the territory on crafts

A place where to discover and interpret the territory through the various crafts, a path between culture, traditions, ancient workshops and great efforts, able to put in place educational and touristic processes.

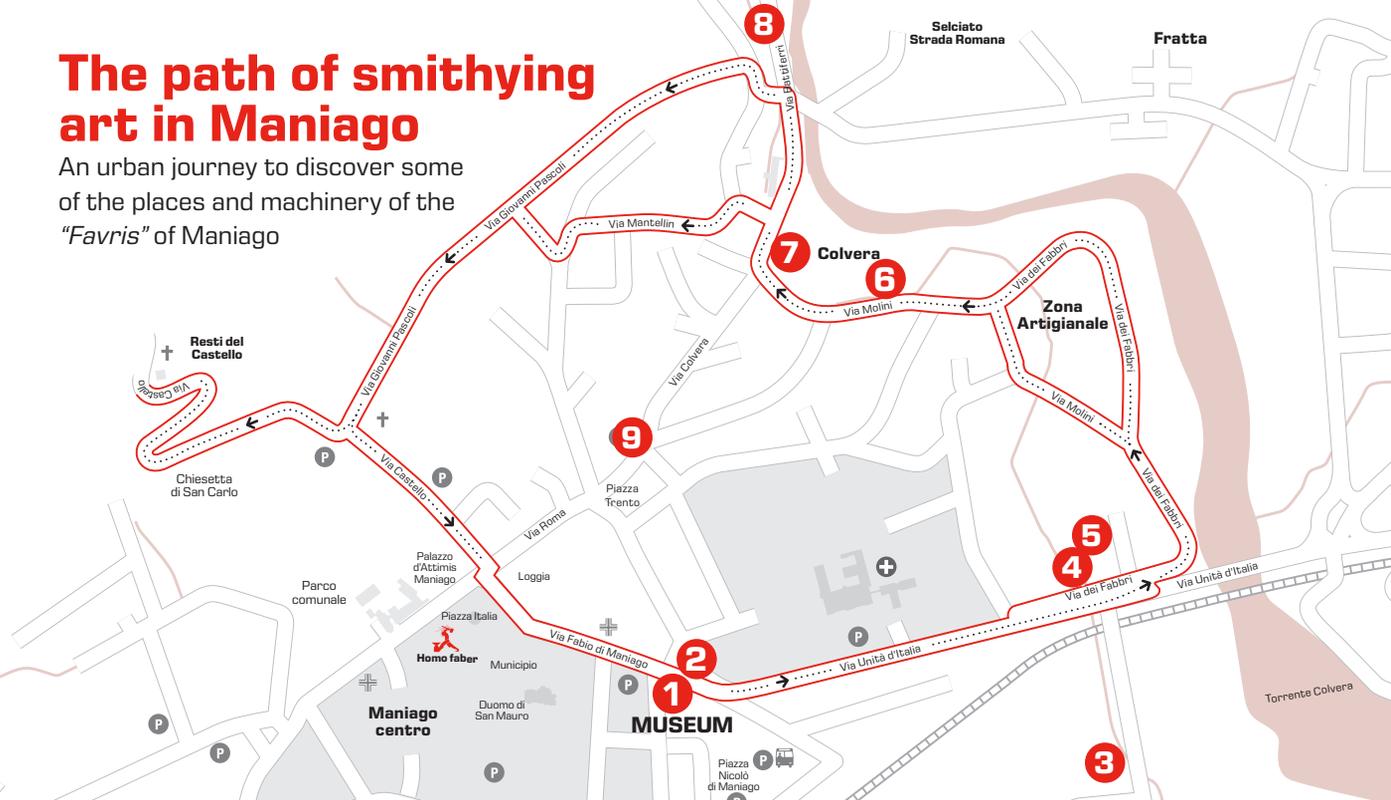
National Documentation Centre on the Knife

www.documentazionecoltello.maniago.it

The "National Documentation Centre on the Knife" started its scientific research project in 2016. On this website you can find an on-line archive which collects documentary resources of different typologies and which allows to explore the world of the blacksmith art. In particular technical know-how and social-cultural activities, open both in the sharing of materials and in the production of content.

The path of smithying art in Maniago

An urban journey to discover some of the places and machinery of the "Favris" of Maniago



1 Drop hammer



2 Shearing machine



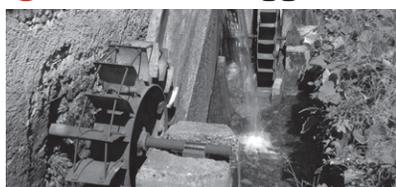
3 Drop hammer



4 Old smithies



5 Colvera's Roggia



6 Furnace



7 Sandstone grinding wheel



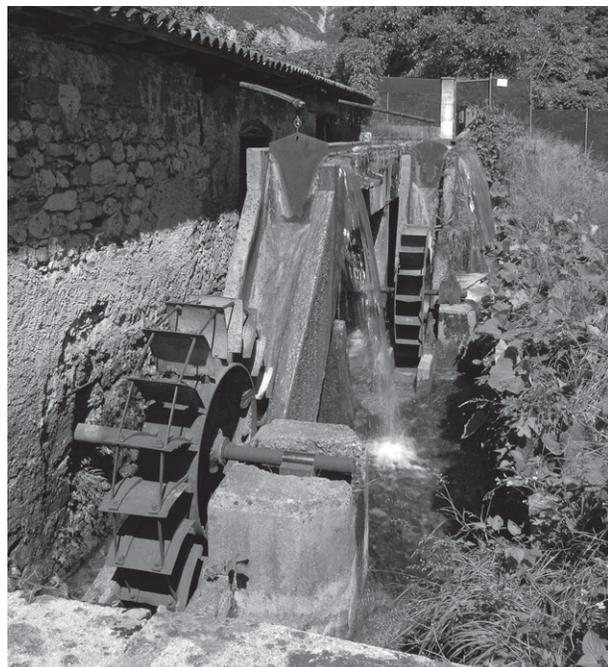
8 Crossbow hammer



9 Shaper machine



5 Colvera's Roggia (small canal)



The history of blacksmiths in Maniago began in 1453, when Count Nicolò of Maniago channeled the water of the Còlvera river in a small canal, along which arose the first blacksmiths' workshops, taking advantage of the hydraulic energy to set into action a mechanism that provided energy to a "maglio a testa d'asino", a machine used by the smithies to strike a piece of iron with great force, having been first heated, in order to obtain the desired shape.

These smiths (called in friulian "Favris da Gros") mechanized the production of tools for peasants, lumberjacks and weapons for the military troops of the Serenissima Republic of Venice. Thanks to the experience gained in metalworking, hundreds of small workshops were born in the houses, skilled in the production of finished cutting objects, such as knives and scissors.

Teaching

The Museum offers educational workshops to schools, training centres and universities, aimed to involve students and teachers in stimulating and exploratory experiences in the world of blacksmith's art.

Activities on reservation

- **My pocketknife:** teaching activity for kindergarten.
- **The craft of the cutler:** manufacture of a wooden pocketknife.
- **Hephaestus and the discovery of metals:** melting the pond and producing a prehistoric blade.
- **Hunt at the museum:** treasure hunting in the Museum path.

* The staff is pleased to organize with teachers and educators personalized activities.



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Facebook: Museo dell'Arte Fabbri
e delle Coltellerie

Opening hours

From Thursday to Monday:
9.30 - 12.30 am / 3.30 - 6.30 pm
Tuesday and Wednesday:
9.30 - 12.30 am
Closed on 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st
December, 1st January and on
Easter day.

Prices

Ticket: € 4,00
Reduced: € 2,00
under 25, over 60,
groups of at least 10 people
(reservations recommended),
Touring members.
Free:
users with disabilities
and accompanying persons,
citizens residing in Maniago,
school groups and accompanying
persons, under 12, FVG Card holders,
tour leaders (with ID card), ICOM
members.
Guided tour: € 2,00 per person
+ Museum entrance ticket
(reservations recommended).

Accessible and inclusive Museum