Museum of the Shroud

The Most Holy Shroud Museum is now located in the crypt of the Most Holy Shroud Church, in Via San Domenico 28, Turin. This is the place permanently addressed to the worship, disclosure, knowing and study on the Holy Shroud. Apart from the sporadic exhibitions, it is the only place, that approaches the scientific and historical questions related to the Holy Shroud, that is permanently kept – but not visible to the public - in the Cathedral of Turin in a shielded chapel.

The Holy Shroud Museum dates back to 1936 when the museum was first opened on June 14, 1936 in the presence of the Archbishop of Turin, Card. Maurilio Fossati. The restoration work of the crypt of the Church of the Most Holy Shroud was set up by Richi Ferrero and Marina Gariboldi and began in 1997 exactly to accommodate the permanent museum of the Holy Shroud. The museum was opened in these new premises on April 15, 1998 in the presence of Turin's Archbishop Card. Giovanni Saldarini. (See a more detailed history below).

The museum displays a complete set of information about Shroud research since 1500, gathering historical, scientific, devoutness and artistic aspects. Before the visit a video in 5 languages helps visitors understand the Shroud's contents.

Teaching paths

A part of the museum presents scientific explorations of the shroud from 1898 to present.

From the very early times, several scientists have been trying to explore the meaning of the Shroud, and its imprint in order to disclose the underlying mysteries. Scientific investigations documented in the museum have their climax in the amazing three-dimensional image of the face of the Holy Shroud Man elaborated by Giovanni Tamburelli and his team in 1978.

A vast space is dedicated to further studies on forensic investigations of the material, its weaving and micro-marks (pollens, blood, aloe, myrrh, aragonite, ...) and on the prints of the coins left on the sheet and their iconographic analysis.

A second section is dedicated to the history (believed as well as recorded) of the Holy Shroud and its worship, starting from the second half of 15th century, when the Sheet became the property of Savoy family.

A very important article is the actual wooden box reliquary used for the Shroud's final journey to Turin in 1578. A further very important relic is the silver box reliquary that has been used to protect the Shroud since late 1500 until April 11th, 1997, the day of the fire in the Guarini chapel in Turin's Cathedral.
In the photographic section, a full set of official pictures of Shroud is shown. From first pictures taken by Secondo Pia in 1898, to Giuseppe Enrie ones on 1931; the first color picture by Giovanni Battista Judica Cordiglia in 1968; the 1978 STURP scientific picture; the Gian Durante ones, taken in 1997, 2000, 2002, 2010 and the high definition digital pictures by Hal9000 in 2008.

Blinds path
The Museum also has a path for the sightless, the result of the partnership with the Italian Blind Union - Section of Torino. Also available is a panel that provides the Shroud in a coded form. For the first time a blind can indeed feel the same emotions that anyone feels in front of the Shroud.

News of the Museum
The Museum of the Shroud does not finish its mission in its exhibition halls. It meets pupils and students of all ages for seminars and didactic lessons in the different schools. All the meetings end with guided tours in the Museum.

The Museum of the Shroud organizes temporary exhibitions along with its permanent exhibition. The Museum also collaborates with other organizations: Museums, Foundations, Associations, Authorities - to create projects of art, history or science, so to reconstruct the true story and the origin of Linen. The prodigious past of the Museum, along with its lively present, can be pictured in the daily news: the news of events and appointments.

The History of the Holy Shroud Museum
The Holy Shroud Museum dates back to 1936 when the Confraternity of the Holy Shroud decided to arrange in a permanent exhibit the relics of the Shroud collected over several centuries. The museum was opened on June 14, 1936 in the presence of the Archbishop of Turin, Card. Maurilio Fossati. The "Documentary Exhibition of the Illustrious Relics," as it was called at that time, was located in a two room-space next to the Church of the Most Holy Shroud.

In the second half of the Fifties, the Confraternity and the "Cultores Sanctae Sindonis" worked hard to make the Museum more functional and its new layout was inaugurated on May 2, 1959. A large restoration work of the Church and of the adjacent home of the Confraternity began in 1961. Therefore the museum was closed and a new location needed to be found.

The museum was re-opened in 1963 in the premises of the renovated home of the Confraternity, in Via San Domenico 28. This larger space enabled many significant improvements to the exhibition, including the opportunity to display a full-size copy of the negative image of the Shroud printed on film and evocatively backlit.
Still, the solution was not considered entirely satisfactory, partly because the Confraternity needed this space for other purposes. Therefore, the International Centre of Sindonology, charged with keeping the museum updated, studied an alternative solution in collaboration with the Confraternity. A small building next to the house of the Confraternity was found and chosen as the new location of the museum. The place was available but they needed to work extensively and adapt it to its new function. Works began in 1965 and finished in 1973 when the new hall was opened. Herein the Museum resided for 25 years.

The restoration work of the crypt of the Church of the Most Holy Shroud was set up by Richi Ferrero and Marina Gariboldi and began in 1997 to accommodate the permanent museum of the Holy Shroud. The old location of the museum was restored and converted into a media room. Here movies about the Shroud are presented to introduce visitors to their tour of the museum. The museum was opened in its new premises on April 15, 1998 in the presence of Turin's Archbishop Card. Giovanni Saldarini.

The Friends of the Holy Shroud

The Museum of the Holy Shroud Museum has almost a hundred friends, gathered in a specific Association: the Friends of the Holy Shroud. It was established in 2002 and since then it has worked to support the International Center of Sindonology and the Council of the Museum in order to enrich the exhibition center with new historical and scientific findings and to ensure the widest usability of it.

The Association is therefore committed to obtain endowments so to purchase works of art or scientific pieces to integrate the existing collections, or to find the necessary funds to restore the pieces already in the Museum. The Friends of the Holy Shroud apply themselves also to finance publications and to organize conferences, lessons and guided tours to the museum itself or to destinations related to the Shroud.

Do you want to know about the activities of Museum Friends? Or do you want to become a Friend of the Museum? Contact us and leave us your mail. We will give you all the information you need...

To contact the web master of the site for comments, recommendations, suggestions: website@sindone.it

To contact the Museum of the Shroud: museum@sindone.org
Tel +39 011 4365832
Fax +39 011 4319275

To contact the International Centre of Sindonology: CIS@sindone.it
Info and services

The Holy Shroud Museum is located in N. 28 Via San Domenico, ten minutes walking from the Turin Cathedral. To make the most of the tour of the Museum, visitors are provided with audio guides in five languages (English, Italian, German, French, Spanish).

For groups over twenty people booking is required:
museo@sindone.org
Tel +39 011 4365832
Fax +39 011 4319275

Visiting hours: Daily, 09:00-12:30 a.m. and 03:00-07:00 p.m. (last visit one hour before closing)

Ticket price:
full price: € 6,00
reduced: € 5,00

Shall be deemed to be reduced for:
- Italian and foreign students up to 24 years with proper identification
- Groups with over 20 people (2 carers free)
- Over 65 years

Ticket prices reduced: € 3,00
- Schools (4 carers free)
- Children from 6 to 12 years

free admission:
- Children from 0 to 5 years (only if accompanied by parents)

At the Museum bookshop you can buy books and material on the Shroud.