

MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO DELL'ALTO ADIGE

The South Tyrol Museum of Archeology in Bolzano (Bozen) - "Südtiroler Archäologiemuseum" in German, "Museo Archeologico dell'Alto Adige" in Italian - documents the history of the province from the Paleolithic and Middle Stone Age (15,000 BC) to the period of Carolingians (800 AD). The concept of the permanent exhibition in the museum consists of original findings, reconstructions, videos as well as interactive media stations. But the museum is world-famous for Ötzi, the Iceman, which has been accessible to the public since 1998.

An entire floor in the South Tyrol Museum of Archeology is dedicated to the life of the Iceman, its clothing made of organic materials as well as to his equipment. Ötzi is conserved in a separate chamber with a temperature of -6° C and a relative humidity of 98%. A small window enables to catch a glimpse of the Iceman. In September 1991, a partly revealed and partly ice-covered human body was found by a couple from Nuremberg (Germany) at the Similaun Glacier in the Ötztal Alps. The place of recovery is located at more than 3,000 m a.s.l., only 92.55 m away from the Austrian border on Italian territory. After decades of research we know now that Ötzi, 1.58 m tall, lived around 3,300 BC and was fatally injured by an arrow when he was about 46 years old.

The museum, opened in 1998, is one of the 10 Provincial Museums of South Tyrol, an entity that also comprises other museums such as the South Tyrolean Cultural History Museum at Castel Tyrol or the South Tyrolean Wine Museum in Caldaro. And how to reach the South Tyrol Museum of Archeology? It is located in the Via Museo road in Bolzano, opposite the Municipal Museum at the beginning of the pedestrian area in the town centre.