



ANTIQUARIUM

You can find this point of interest in Ossuccio - Path 1 - Stage 1

INFORMATION

Location: the *Antiquarium* occupies a portion of the old *Hospitale de Stabio*.

Paving: the internal courtyard of the *Hospitale* complex is paved with flagstones, with two cobbled lateral strips, approx. 1.5 metres wide in the part flanking the right handside of the church of S. Maria Maddalena. The inside of the *Antiquarium* is paved with concrete.

Architectural barriers: to access the *Antiquarium* please mind the low threshold and the two automatic glass doors. The *Antiquarium* extends over four levels, connected by stairs; the lift makes every room accessible to the disabled, overcoming existing architectural barriers.

Access: access is from the internal courtyard of the *Hospitale* complex.

Services: paid parking available in the area, automated teller machine, Municipal Police station.

Leisure and food: one bar-restaurant in the area, “Opera Pia Giovio” public park, which is used as a lido during the summer season.

DESCRIPTION

(*Silvia Fasana*)

The *Antiquarium*, a new and prestigious museum, was opened inside the complex of the old *Hospitale de Stabio* in May 2013, as part of the actions provided for by the Accordo Quadro di Sviluppo Territoriale (Spatial Development Framework Agreement), and hosts the archaeological findings and the artistic artefacts coming from various locations of the Island and the territory of Ossuccio.

The *Antiquarium* extends over four levels. At ground floor you will find the reception, the info-point, which acts as a starting point and visitor centre for the Comacina Island and its surroundings, plus the bookshop. On the first floor an exhibition space hosts the most significant archaeological findings of the various excavations carried out on the island, such as fragments of architectural decoration from buildings which are no longer standing, a number of inscriptions dating back to the Roman and Paleo-Christian periods, the remains of frescoes which adorned old churches, and more than two hundred everyday objects – ceramic plates and vases, grey stone containers, fragments of glass chalices, coins, work tools and ornamental objects. The exhibition of these objects, which is supported by didactic panels, is arranged to offer an ideal itinerary illustrating in chronological order the history of the Island and the various buildings brought to light. There is also a small room for didactic activities and conferences; worthy of note is the interesting multi-media archive, offering an insight into the results of the analyses which have been carried out so far, while highlighting issues which still remain open with the opportunity of a constant updating. In addition to managing studies and researches and enhancing the archaeological heritage of the Island, the *Antiquarium* aims to be at the forefront of the development of the local cultural and tourist system, supplying visitors with information and didactic support, and promoting new themed itineraries.

The *Antiquarium* was dedicated to Luigi Mario Belloni and Mariuccia Zecchinelli Belloni, to remember the multi-faceted and relentless activity of this passionate inquirer into the memories of the Island, to which he devoted himself for a long period, and of his wife, an historian and director of Como’s Museums.