



What is Ridola Museum?



Ridola Museum

Ridola Museum is an important museum in **Matera**.

Matera is a very beautiful and important city in **Basilicata**. Basilicata is the name of the Italian **region** where Matera is located. A region is a part of Italy. There are 20 regions in Italy.



Ridola Museum is part of the **National Museums of Matera**.

Two more museums are part of the National Museums of Matera:

- the **Museum of Palazzo Lanfranchi**
- the **Former San Rocco Hospital**.



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Museum of Palazzo Lanfranchi



Former San Rocco Hospital



Ridola Museum is a museum where there are many objects of a long and a very long time ago.

Those objects were under the ground.

Domenico Ridola and other archaeologists dug the ground and found those objects.



Find out who is Domenico Ridola on page 38

Inside Ridola Museum you can see:

- vases
- objects like small statues, helmets, arms
- bones of animals.

Looking at those objects you can understand how people in Basilicata lived a very long time ago.

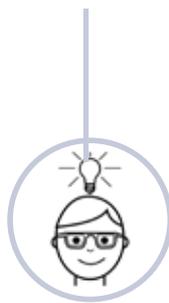


Ridola Museum is a 2-floor museum.

You can find the objects on ground floor and floor 1.

On **ground floor** you can see:

- **A hall with some objects of a very long time ago.** Looking at those objects you can understand what an archaeological museum is.



Find out what is an archaeological museum on page 10

- **A hall with objects and bones of animals that lived a very long time ago.** Looking at those objects you can understand how people lived and what the animals were like a very long time ago.





On **floor 1** you can see:

- **A hall with objects and vases of a very long time ago.**
Some of those objects were inside the tombs of people who lived a very long time ago.



- **Some halls where you can see and touch some objects.**



- **A hall with many vases of a very long time ago.**
Those vases are very beautiful and precious.





What are the National Museums of Matera



The **National Museums of Matera** are new,
and they are formed by:

- Ridola Museum
- Palazzo Lanfranchi Museum
- the Former San Rocco Hospital.

The National Museums of Matera talk about the history
of **Basilicata**.



The history of Ridola Museum



A long time ago there was the **convent** of Santa Chiara inside this building.

A convent is the house where **nuns** live.

Antonio del Ryos Culminarez had this building built.

Antonio del Ryos Culminarez was the bishop of Matera.

A bishop is the head of the priests and of all the Christians of a city.

Christians are the persons who believe in Jesus Christ.

At some point nuns went away from the convent.





**When the nuns went to another convent,
Domenico Ridola decided
to make Ridola Museum
inside this building.**



Find out who is
Domenico Ridola
on page 38

Domenic Ridola put his **collection** of objects
inside this building as a gift to the city of Matera.

A collection is the set of objects or artworks that someone keeps
at home to watch and study them.

So, all the inhabitants of Matera can see his collection of objects.
You too can come and see his collection inside Ridola Museum.



Domenico Ridola



Domenico Ridola was a very important **doctor** and **archaeologist**. Archaeologists study how people lived a very long time ago. **Domenico wanted to study how was the city of Matera a very long time ago and how people lived there.**

To understand those things, Domenico studied many objects of a long and a very long time ago.

For example, he looked at and studied:

- the bread stamps used by families in Matera a long time ago
- pots, pieces of vases and sacred objects of a very long time ago.



Domenico started **collecting** those objects.

To collect means to keep objects and artworks at home to watch and study them.

Domenico loved the people who lived in Matera and decided to give all the objects he had found as a gift to the city.

Domenico made that gift because he wanted that all the people could:

- look at the objects he had found
- learn new things about the city of Matera.





The history of Matera



Matera is a very beautiful and important city in Basilicata





Matera is famous because a very long time ago many people used to live in houses dug into **tuff**.

Tuff is a stone that is easy to cut.



Those houses were like **caves** and had few rooms.

A cave is a big hole in the rock.



A long time ago the land near Matera became dry and plants couldn't grow well anymore.

Then **farmers** became very poor and started digging their houses into tuff.

Farmers are the people who cultivate the land.

To cultivate means to plant plants to grow fruit, vegetables and **cereals**.

Cereals are used to make bread.

In Matera, the houses dug into tuff are many and are divided into 2 **neighbourhoods**:

- the **Sasso Barisano**
- the **Sasso Caveoso**.

A neighbourhood is a part of the city.

Those neighbourhoods are called **Sassi** because houses were all dug into tuff there.

Sassi means stones.



Besides the caves where farmers lived, in Matera there were

- the caves where people made bread
- the caves where people went to pray.

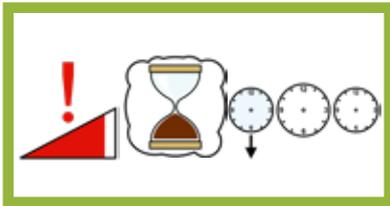
Today in Matera people don't live in the caves anymore.

Those caves are very important though because when you visit them you can understand how the houses of the farmers were like.

Today many people visit Matera and its Sassi.



A very long time ago



Many farmers lived in Matera.



The farmers have become poor because the land was dry and there was little food.



The poor farmers made their houses in the Sassi of Matera.



Today farmers don't live in the Sassi anymore. Many tourists go to Matera to see the Sassi.

Today