



## 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 inprint 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](mailto:website@sindone.it)

To contact the **Museum of the Shroud**:

[museo@sindone.org](mailto:museo@sindone.org)

Tel +39 011 4365832

Fax +39 011 4319275

To contact the **International Centre of Sindonology**: [CIS@sindone.it](mailto: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](mailto: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**.