



Naval History Museum



The building

The **Naval History Museum**, established in 1919 by the Military Staff of the Italian Navy, is located in a XV century building in campo San Biagio, near the **Venetian Arsenal**, a five-minute walk from St. Mark's Square.

The main building has an exhibition area spread over five levels for a total of **42 rooms**. Beyond the main building is the **Ships Pavilion**, located in the ancient "oars workshop" of the Arsenal.



History

The Venetian Arsenal was the forerunner of the Naval Museum. **Models** of ships that were built or were going to be built (strictly to scale). The "House of Models", so called at the time, suffered looting by the French troops in 1797 that ravaged other places dedicated to the history of the Republic of Venice, such as the weapons room at Palazzo Ducale. The difficult recovery and rearrangement of the remaining objects constitute the founding of the Naval Museum.



The Museum today:

It is laid out on five floors covering **4,000 square meters** and in **42 rooms** with numerous and interesting **objects** and **models** of the Venetian and Italian Navy such as the original lanterns of the ancient war galleys of the Republic of Venice, the famous "Maiale", a slow-running torpedo, used in the II World War during the «Raid on Alexandria, Egypt» and a collection of **typical boats** of the Venice lagoon.



Not to be missed...

Ground Floor Rooms 2/7 Two rare examples of Italian assault vehicles from World War II can be admired: The SLC "Maiale" (slow-running torpedo) and THE MTM "barchino esplosivo".(a modified tourism motorboat) for individual attack.

First floor Room 12 it is impossible not to notice the parchment of a geographical chart of the Mediterranean by Portuguese cartographer Diogo Homem, who also worked in Venice (1557). Whereas Room 14 has a reconstructive model of galley, proposed in 1881 by admiral Luigi Fincati, director of the Naval Museum and scholar of ancient construction techniques.



Second floor Room 28 you will be fascinated by a series of pre-unitary Navy uniforms, among which the Venetian uniforms of 1790 are particularly interesting.

Continuing to the *third floor Room 35* you can admire Peggy Guggenheim's personal gondola. The famous American collector of contemporary art who, living in Venice, wanted to conform to the ancient tradition of noble families and had her own private gondola built; this is the last Venetian gondola de casàda (20th century).

Finally, on the *fourth floor, Room 41* is worth a visit. It is dedicated to the Swedish Navy with Swedish memorabilia of Italian design. The visit concludes with room 25 dedicated to the great malacological collection with shells coming from all the seas of the world.



The Ships Pavilion

The **Ships Pavilion** currently houses part of the collection of **vessels** in the Naval History Museum of Venice.

The building is located in Fondamenta dell'Arsenale, Castello, near the Arsenale bridge.

It consists of three buildings arranged in series and a fourth one of a similar size, perpendicular to the first three.



History of the Ships Pavilion

The building was constructed in the mid-sixteenth century to serve as a workshop and depot for oars. In 1577, it was temporarily adapted as the headquarters of the Great Council of Venice, which was the main governing body of the city, following the disastrous fire that had destroyed Palazzo Ducale and had made it unusable for a long time. The rooms essentially retained their function as a specialized oar joinery. After 1866, the year in which Venice was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, the premises were used as storehouses and workshops by the military engineer corps. Since 1980 the oar workshop areas have taken the name of “Ships Pavilion”, which is an extension of the Museum’s main building and houses vessels of great historical importance.

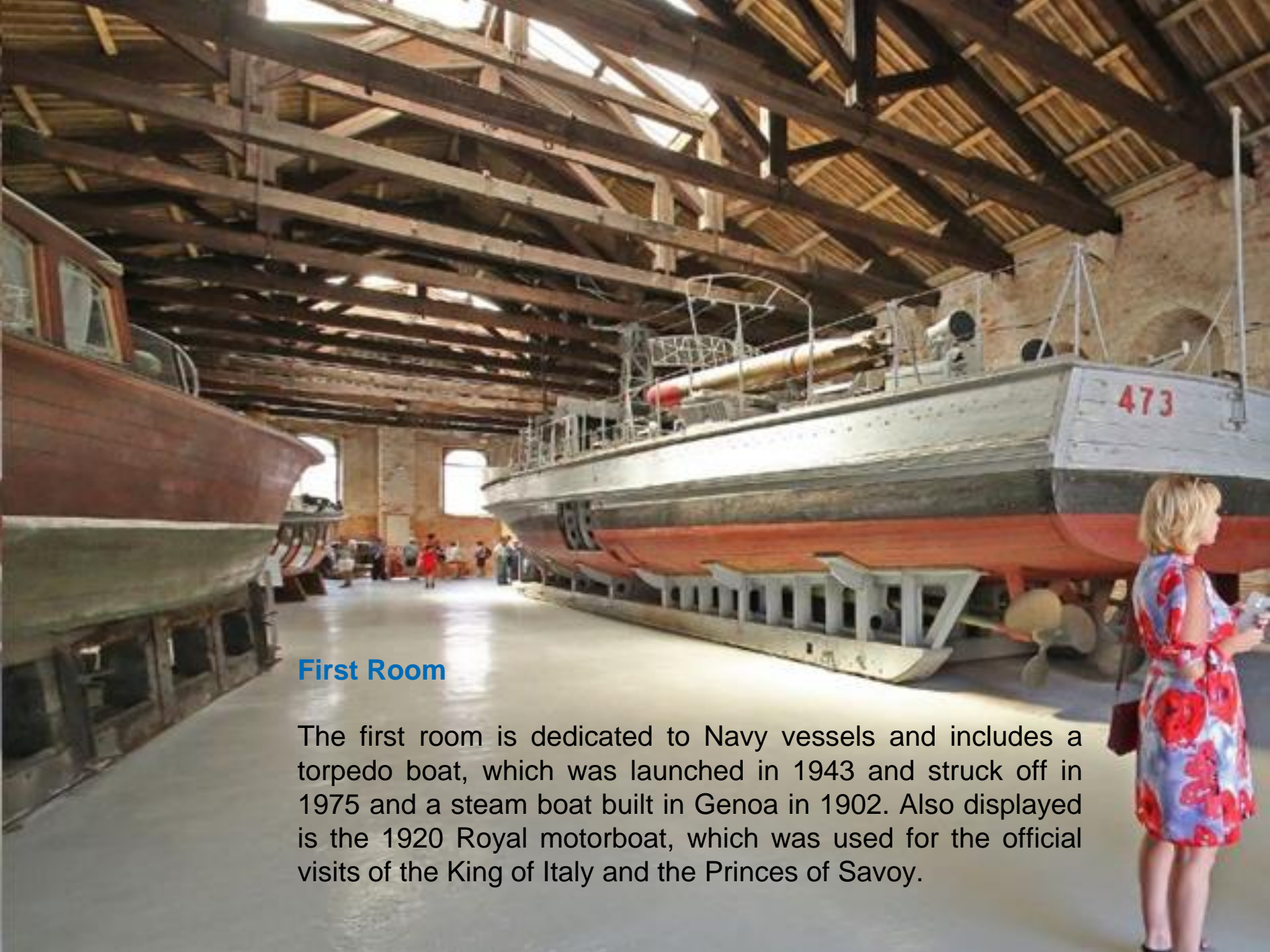


Exhibition

The exhibits in the sixteenth-century wing of the Ships Pavilion, which are laid out to reproduce the atmosphere of a **shipyard**, give an interesting picture of the technological evolution of boats that were used both for lagoon fishing and for official ceremonies of the **Republic of Venice**, as well as Navy vessels.

The exhibition is divided into three rooms.





First Room

The first room is dedicated to Navy vessels and includes a torpedo boat, which was launched in 1943 and struck off in 1975 and a steam boat built in Genoa in 1902. Also displayed is the 1920 Royal motorboat, which was used for the official visits of the King of Italy and the Princes of Savoy.



Second Room

Dominating the centre of the second room is the **Scalè Reale**; a boat inspired by the "bissona", which was built in the first half of the nineteenth century to transport high-rank guests. Among these, in 1866, was King Vittorio Emanuele II immediately after the reunification of Italy. Next to it, a **gondola** from 1912, a **Disdotona**, a boat with eighteen oarsmen belonging to the *Società Canottieri Querini* (Querini Rowing Club), a boat for transporting heavy goods along the Po River and two '**bragozzi**', which were the traditional fishing boats of Chioggia with the typical lugsail.

Third room

The attraction of the third room is the power plant of the **Elettra steamer** that became the Guglielmo Marconi's yacht - Nobel prize winner for physics in 1909. Marconi lived on the boat between 1919 and 1937, transforming it into a floating home-laboratory and carrying out important experiments on board.

On the death of the scientist, after several handovers, the yacht was sunk by an Anglo-American fighter-bomber in January 1944 near Zadar. It was retrieved only in 1962 when it was returned to Italy. Ten years later, Elettra was divided into sections and distributed to several museums, including the Naval History Museum of Venice.



Fares

Tickets (including also the Ships Pavilion)

Full price: € 10.00

Reduced: € 7.50 children from 6 to 14 years; students aged 15 to 25; over 65; holders of Muve Friend Card

Schools: € 4.00 (on presentation of the list on the school's headed paper, it also applies to carers)

Residents: € 1.55

Free: personnel from the Ministry of Defense; people with disabilities; children under 6 years; ANMI; ICOM members, schools of the Municipality of Venice and related teachers and guides (on presentation of the list on the letterhead of the school).

Info and booking

Opening time:

Winter season

MUSEUM 10 am - 5 pm last entry 4.30 pm

PAVILION 10 am – 5 pm last entry 4.30 pm

Summer season

MUSEUM 10 am – 6 pm last entry 5.30 pm

PAVILION 11am – 6 pm last entry 5.30 pm

How to reach Naval History Museum:

Vaporetto ACTV: routes 1, 4.1, 4.2 - stop Arsenale

Info:

Call center: +39 041 2424

Info and group booking: ticketing@velaspa.com

Online booking (full and reduced ticket): www.veneziaunica.it



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