

Welcome to Museo Capellini!

“Mente et malleo”, “by thought and hammer”.

That is the geologist’s motto welcoming visitors in the atrium.

In the Bolca Rooms (1) you can find fossils of fish and plants which lived in Bolca (Verona) 50 million years ago in a warm and tropical sea. You can also admire the remains of fish and sharks’ organic tissue.

The *Scelidotherium* (5), a giant anteater, and the *Glyptodon* (4), a mammal similar to an enormous armadillo, come from Argentina.

Close to them you can see the remains of some sirens (*Sirenidae*), *Felsinotherium* and *Halitherium*.

The complete skeleton of *Mastodon avernensis*, whose tusks are almost 4 metre long, dominates the Elephants’ Room, where you can also find some remains of *Ursus spelaeus*, a skull of *Mammuthus*, some magnificent specimens of porquials *Cetotheriophanes* (found on the hills in Bologna) and *Aulocetus sammarinensis* from the Republic of San Marino. (3)

The Plants’ Room houses a rich collection of plants and petrified wood. The oldest date back to the Carboniferous period some 300 million years ago. The comparison between two or three dimension fossilization is perfectly revealed by the contrast between Cycads displayed on period pedestals, wood opals from Italy and Egypt and the thin leaves from Castellina. (2)

The great hall has been housing for more than 100 years the magnificent skeleton of *Diplodocus carnegiei* and the skull of the carnivorous dinosaur *Torvosaurus tanneri*. (11)

The skeleton of *Tethyshadros insularis* found near Trieste represents the greatest dinosaur ever discovered in Italy. The plate of “Rosso Ammonitico Veronese” preserves the skull of the oldest saltwater crocodile in the world, *Neptunidraco ammoniticus*. (11)

Ichthyosaur’s fossils coming from Germany together with crocodiles’ and other reptiles’ remains stand out in the room where you can also observe the skeletons of great roadrunner birds like *Meionornis* and *Elephantopus*. (8)



Not everybody knows that the word “Geology” was invented here in Bologna in 1603 by the brilliant mind of Ulisse Aldrovandi, the first to create a public scientific museum.

The naturalistic culture in Bologna started by Aldrovandi continued to grow thanks to the work of prestigious scholars such as Giovanni Capellini.

After many years of renovation, Capellini himself inaugurated the museum in 1871. Thanks to his work, the Museum collected in a very short time more than one million pieces, most of them coming from other continents such as Asia, North and South America.

The Museum’s most important guest is the *Diplodocus carnegiei*, which arrived in Bologna in 1909. It was donated by the great industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to the King Vittorio Emanuele III (Victor Emmanuel III). Thanks to this magnificent exhibitory item Bologna, its Geology and Palaeontology museum and university have reached Italian and European highest standards.

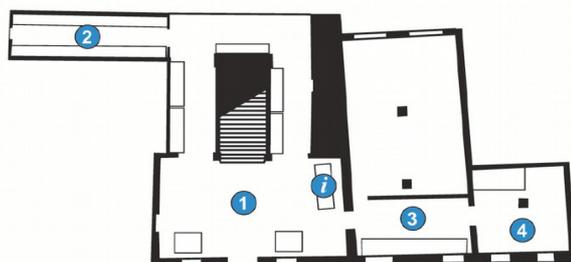
The construction of a building to make room for the earth science department brought to the loss of part of the museum’s rooms and historic garden, Also, the more than ten years long renovation work was a difficult challenge for the museum. 3rd September 1988, on its 9th centenary the museum reopens with the present look.

On the first floor, over 240,000 invertebrate fossils, 4,500 vertebrate finds, 6,700 fossilized plants and almost 170,000 rock samples are displayed.

The museum keeps preserving its original nineteenth-century foundation, which makes it unique in the world, in spite of this it also keeps modernizing itself. In 2009, on the first *Diplodocus* mounting centenary anniversary, the works that brought the Dinosaur’s hall to its present look were started.

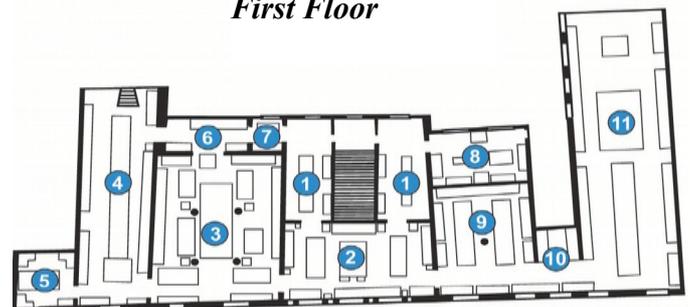
The main objective set for the future is to enhance the forming didactic activities on the history of science and life. This can be achieved through the diffusion of knowledge and research and by letting autonomous visitors, classes and experts visit and benefit from the finds exhibited in the museum.

Ground Floor



- 1 Atrio
 - 2 Sala delle Rocce
 - 3 Sala Vialli
 - 4 Sancta Sanctorum
- ↑ Ingresso di Via Zamboni 63

First Floor



- 1 Sala di Bolca
- 2 Sala delle Piante
- 3 Sala degli Elefanti e delle Balene
- 4 Sala dei Vertebrati
- 5 Sala del Formichiere
- 6 Sala degli Ippopotami
- 7 Sala delle Ammoniti
- 8 Sala degli Ittiosauri e degli Uccelli Corridori
- 9 Sala degli Invertebrati
- 10 Sala Africa e Nord America
- 11 Sala del Diplodocus

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