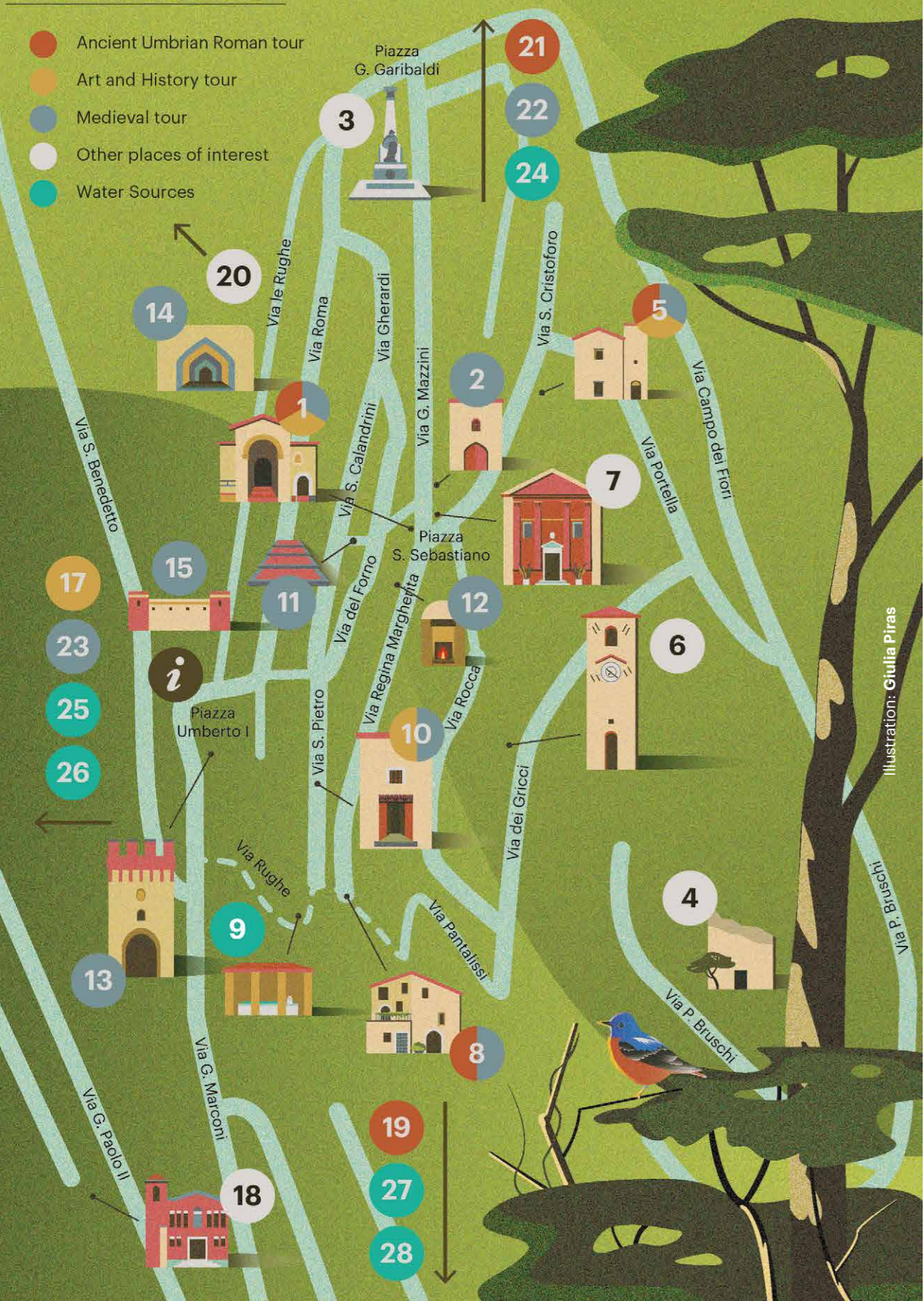


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INFO AND CONTACTS

ANTIQUARIUM COMUNALE
Via Mazzini, 16 – Fossato di Vico (Perugia)

Opening hours:
Saturdays, Sundays and holidays
> **NOVEMBER - MARCH 10:00 - 12:00 / 14:30 - 17:30**
> **APRIL - OCTOBER 10:00 - 12:00 / 15:30 - 18:30**

To visit Antiquarium Comunale please contact the info point.

INFOPOINT
Piazza Umberto I - Fossato di Vico (Perugia)
> +39 071 919591
> fossatodivicoturismo@happennines.it

-  Fossato di Vico Turismo | Fossato di Vico
-  fossatodivicoturismo

Graphic design: **Giulia Piras**



ANTIQUARIUM

FOSSATO DI VICO



The village has still its medieval characteristics: the walls, the towers and the defensive grid of the internal alleys are still intact. Among these, the Rughe stand out: an evocative walkway with stone vaults, pointed arches and wooden plank roofing. The first settlements in the area date back to the 2nd millennium BC; it is here that Umbrians, Piceni and other peoples of the Apennine met and exchanged their products. In the 3rd-2nd century B.C. the Romans built a post station and a small village which took the name of Helvillum. It will take many centuries before Helvillum is replaced

by a new settlement built in a more dominant position and with a name of Byzantine origin Fossaton (fortification on high ground). The addition to the name “di Vico” will only take place in 1862. Nowadays, the territory of the municipality has not lost its importance as a road centre for communications between the two sides of the Umbria-Marche Apennines. Among the various events, it is worth mentioning the Festa degli Statuti medievali (every second weekend in May), in which the life and trades of 1386 are recalled: this is the year in which the Statutes of the Castle of Fossato were published.

FOSSATO DI VICO

HISTORY





The museum, right in the heart of the ancient castle, is located in the building that was the first town hall. Here the Statutes of the Castle of Fossato were drawn up and later on published on 13 May 1386 by the "Loggia habitationis". The collection in the Antiquarium represents a journey that wants to tell the story of a small town, starting from protohistory up to the late ancient age. The visit begins with some ancient geographical maps and views, ranging from the 16th to the 19th century which narrate the evolution of the territory. It then follows a chronological exhibition of finds and art objects, which document, from

prehistory to the modern age, the life of an area whose centrality is given, rather than by the size and wealth of the settlement, by the progressive organization of the axes of traffic that crossed here. Among these, there are also materials and architectural elements, recovered from the excavations on the top of the hamlet of Borgo, concerning buildings from the end of the 1st century BC. There are also the ancient fragments of Dante's Comedy dating back to the 14th century and the original mechanism of the Clock Tower, dating back to the 16th century, made by the Gricci family of Fossato.



Nymph

Valuable fragment of a marble statue dated to the 2nd century A.D. It represents a female figure, the nymph, with the lower part of the body that is still preserved and a shell, hypothetically supported by her hands, now lost. This statue of excellent features probably had the function of a garden statue or decorative ornament inside a niche.

Bronze Statue

The bronze statue exhibited in the museum is dated to the 3rd century B.C. and portrays a young man holding a spherical object, perhaps an apple or a pomegranate. This type of bronze statuettes depicting men or animals were generally left in sanctuaries as a votive offering.



Dante's Fragments

The two front-back fragments show Canto IV-V-VI-VII of Paradise of the Divine Comedy. They date back to a 14th-century codex which, as commonly happened in that period, was used as the back cover of a 16th-century register. Partially superimposed on each other and not entirely legible, they are written in Gothic minuscule.



Those exhibited in the museum were found during a rearrangement in the Historical Archive of the Municipality of Fossato di Vico. They were on volumes where the civil deeds of the village were annotated. This precious document, unknowingly preserved for centuries, gives us an important testimony shortly after the death of the great poet.

Medieval

Vaults, towers and walls paint the profile of Fossato di Vico, a village perched on the slopes of the Apennines: the medieval castle was built around the 13th century and legend has it that it was unassailable. An evocative legacy of that distant time are the Rughe, a series of vaulted walkways once to protect the perimeter that was the first bulwark of defence.



Art History

Stone and colour merge in a unique path: Fossato di Vico is also the history of medieval art. A real itinerary to discover its protagonists, such as Mello da Gubbio, the Master of Fossato, the Master of San Verecondo, and Ottaviano Nelli, with his frescoes in the Piaggiola church where, since 1406, the decoration of the vault recalls the spiritual heavens of Dante's memory.



Ancient Umbrian Roman

Helvillum, the Roman city, was a centre along the Via Flaminia and an obligatory stopping point, or nearly so, for anyone traveling along the ancient road. From here the most important personalities of the Empire passed by. Important also for the temple of the goddess Cupra, the Umbrian deity of the first inhabited nucleus, Helvillum was also a destination for those seeking rest.

