

Ötzi

the Iceman

TRAVEL REPORT BY

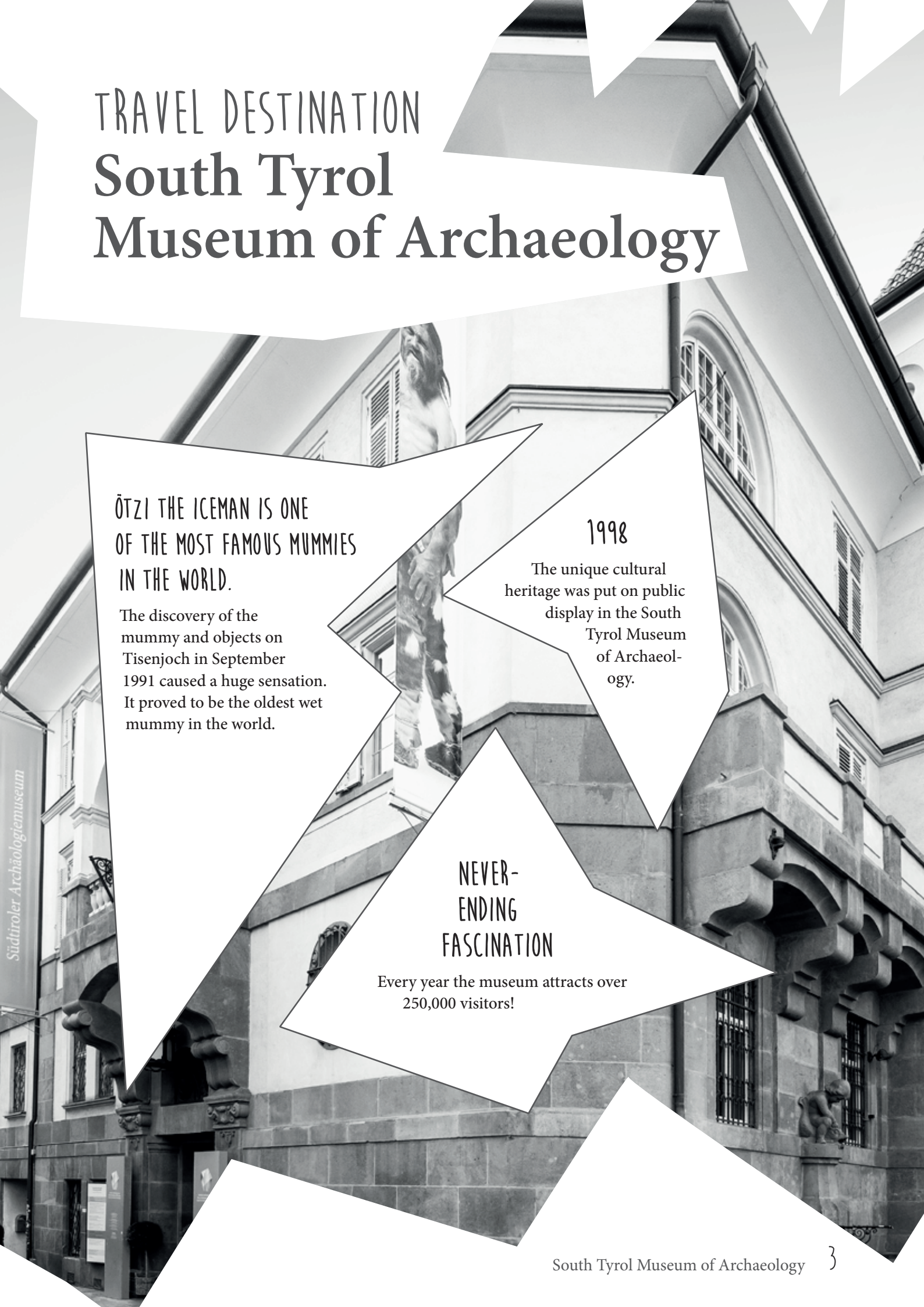


Südtiroler Archäologiemuseum
Museo Archeologico dell'Alto Adige
South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology



Credits

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TRAVEL DESTINATION

South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology

ÖTZI THE ICEMAN IS ONE
OF THE MOST FAMOUS MUMMIES
IN THE WORLD.

The discovery of the mummy and objects on Tisenjoch in September 1991 caused a huge sensation. It proved to be the oldest wet mummy in the world.

1998

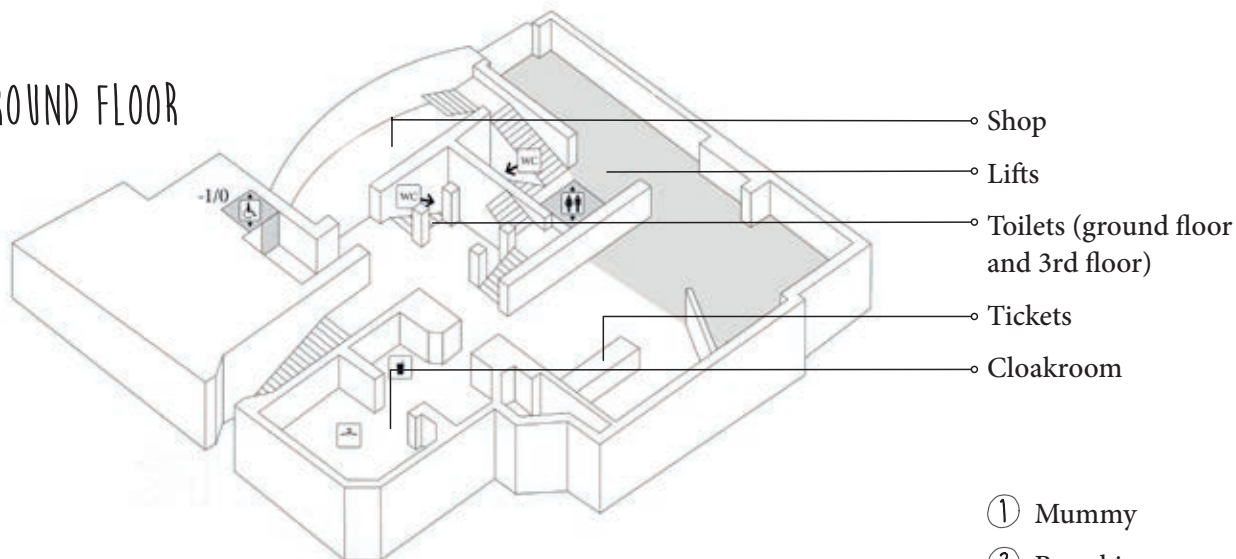
The unique cultural heritage was put on public display in the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology.

NEVER-
ENDING
FASCINATION

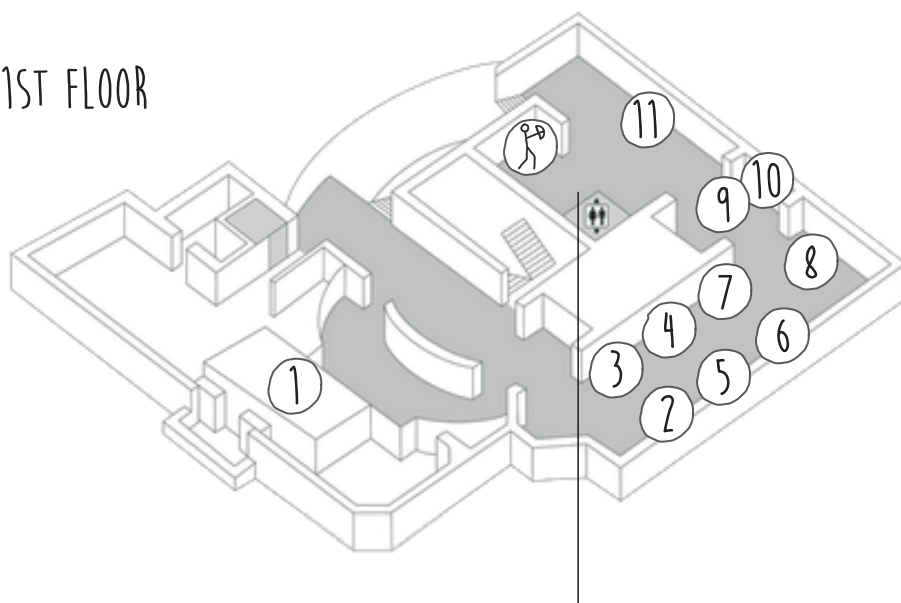
Every year the museum attracts over 250,000 visitors!

GETTING AROUND IN THE MUSEUM

GROUND FLOOR

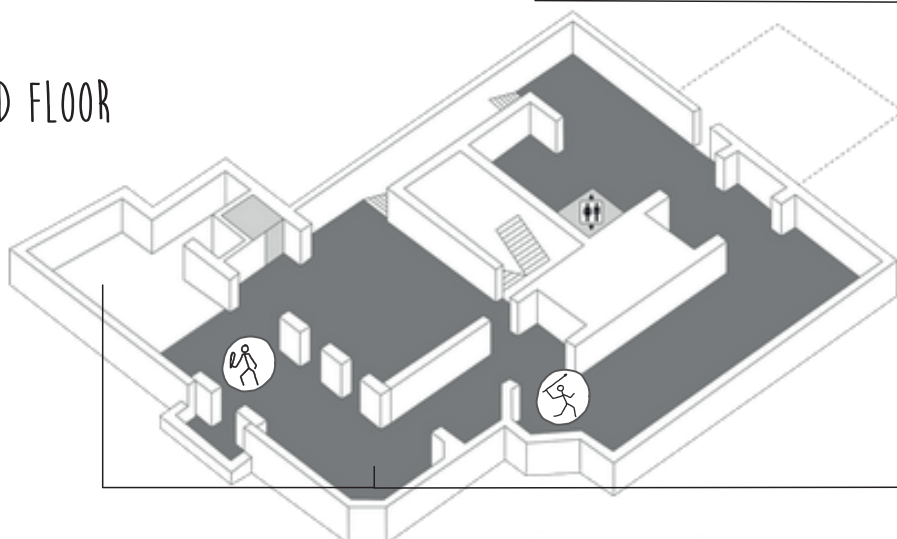


1ST FLOOR



- ① Mummy
- ② Bearskin cap
- ③ Grass mat
- ④ Hide coat
- ⑤ Leggings
- ⑥ Shoes
- ⑦ Loincloth
- ⑧ Bow
- ⑨ Axe
- ⑩ Dagger
- ⑪ High Alpine hike
- Menhirs
- Deer hunt (distributed around the 1st floor)
- Discovery room

2ND FLOOR



- Food and drink (distributed around the 1st and 2nd floor)
- Ötzi as a patient
- Murder case
- Quied places

Ages

The Neolithic Age was followed by the Copper Age, which in the Alpine region spanned the period between 3500 and 2200 BC. The Copper Age takes its name from the fact that – alongside stone tools that were still being made – weapons, equipment and jewellery were increasingly made from copper during this period. The use of and trade in the new material led to the first concentrations of wealth and power. Graves containing an especially rich collection of burial goods reflect a developing social hierarchy.

Economy

People were self-sufficient, living from cultivated and wild plants, as well as from domestic and wild animals. Specialised occupations such as miners, coppersmiths and merchants emerged. Agricultural practices improved with the invention of the wheel, the wagon and the plough, leading to more efficient forms of farming.

Climate

During Ötzi's lifetime, average temperatures fell significantly, while the amount of precipitation increased. It was a little colder and wetter than it is now.

Settlements

The choice of settlement locations in South Tyrol during the Copper Age varied from cone-shaped sites in the valleys and on hilltops to terraces at mid-elevations. Such exposed sites provided protection from landslides and floods as well as from marauders.

Customs

The custom of erecting large stone blocks was common across Europe during the Copper Age. The stones were engraved with images of people complete with clothing, weapons and jewellery. These standing stones, called menhirs, were erected in honour of important ancestors. Ten of these stone monuments have been found in South Tyrol alone.

Festival culture

Sacrificial offerings were made at natural holy sites such as clifftops, groves, lakes, springs and moors. The offerings were burnt or buried. The offerings were made communally. It is possible that the people celebrated after the offerings.

DETOUR

Ötzi, a stroke of luck for research:

The glacier preserved Ötzi along with important clues for researchers.

Very little is generally known about Neolithic society or the people themselves.

Sources of information being scarce, graves provide valuable insights into the burial practices and beliefs of the time. In the Alpine region, burials with or without grave goods have been found in small caves, under rock overhangs, in stone burial chambers and in urns. Many are communal graves.

Tests on skeletons have shown that people in the Neolithic were around 150 to 165 cm tall (4' 11" to 5' 5") and rarely lived past the age of 40. There was also a high child mortality rate, and the average life expectancy was only 20 to 25 years.