

Destination: Pistoia - The Embroidery Museum. **Baggio** - The Museum of the Charcoal Burner. *We also advise visits to:* **Casalguidi** - The "Punto Casale" Embroidery Museum. **Quarrata** - The Ernesto Franchi Collection.



The Embroidery Museum, Pistoia



The Embroidery Museum occupies some rooms on the ground floor of Palazzo Rospigliosi, where the Rospigliosi and Diocesan Museums can also be found. It contains a display of the embroidered textile materials that are typical of Pistoia, which, very rightly, is considered one of the best areas of production. The documents, sources and numerous exhibits preserved here confirm that embroidery was a widespread activity in the city, where, first the convents and monasteries of enclosed nuns and later the

conservatories of female education guaranteed the survival of the various stitches, customs, types, styles and fashions of the local "needlework", which was linked to profane luxury and ecclesiastical ostentation. The success of the embroidery production in the territory of Pistoia was helped even more by the creation of several original stitches, such as "drawn-thread work", the "antique stitch", also known as the "Tuscan stitch", and the "Casalguidi stitch", which originated in the village of this name.

From its opening, the Boards promoting the Embroidery Museum did all they could to ensure that there was always some

activity connected to embroidery. This led to the creation of a new type of embroidery known as the "Pistoia stitch", whose execution, in spite of being innovative, was actually based on some very simple and extremely old embroidery stitches that were already known. However there is little doubt that the final result is very original because it closely resembles an etching or a pen and ink drawing. The most suitable subjects for the Pistoia stitch are usually human figures, which can also be carried out in large sizes.

How to get there:

by car, from the Pistoia motorway exit: keep to the right and continue as far as the roundabout. Take the third exit, going past the Infopoint structure and then turn left at the railway bridge. Turn right at the end of the road into Via IV Novembre; carry straight on here and then take Via Cellini, the second road on the left, to reach the free Cellini car park. A shuttle service leaves from here for the old city centre (tel. 800 277825, active from 6.40am to 8.30pm); get off at the bus stop in Piazza Garibaldi. From here take Via Panciatici on the left and continue straight on as far as Piazza del Duomo. From here walk down Ripa del Sale.

by train: all the destinations on the itinerary are a 10/15 minutes walk away from the station.

Info and reception: Embroidery Museum - Ripa del Sale, 3 Pistoia - tel. 0573 358016 - 0573 28740 (Rospigliosi Museum)

Opening hours and prices: Tues Wed Thurs 10am-1pm; Fri Sat 10am-1pm and 3-6pm; second Sun of month 10am-1pm and 3-6pm

full tickets: € 3.50 - reduced tickets: € 2.00

The Museum of the Charcoal Burner, Baggio



Charcoal burning was the principal activity of all the inhabitants of the town until the end of the last war. Entire families in fact emigrated from November to June to the Maremma, Corsica and Sardinia, where they were called in because of their particular ability and skill in cutting the forests of holm oaks and making charcoal. It was a very hard life; after constructing a hut, they had to live for long periods deep in the woods and far from home.

The Museum was created as part of a general project to recover and revalue the work and

way of life of the charcoal burner. It contains the typical instruments, objects, clothes and equipment used in the daily

life and traditions of the mountain people.

A charcoal kiln has been reconstructed outside the museum, with an open section that allows visitors to see how the wood was arranged, as well as a hut representative of the type lived in by the charcoal burners when they were at work.

How to get there:

by car, from the Cellini car park: turn left at the exit from the car park and keep on the right. Turn right at the stop sign into Via Fermi and then continue for about 500 m until reaching the turning on the left for the Tangenziale Est (East bypass), following it right to the end. Turn right at the traffic lights into Via Antonelli. At Candeglia (after about 2 km), follow the directions for Baggio, taking Via Crespole and Fabbriche. Turn right 5 km further on into Via di Baggio Nuova. Go past the Villa of Baggio and continue for about 2 km as far as Baggio.

Info and reception: Museum of the Charcoal Burner - Via di Baggio, 36/A - Baggio - tel. 0573 46422 - cell. 338 7866205

Opening hours and prices: Winter: Sun 2.30-5.30pm - Summer: Sun 3.30-7pm - visits on prior reservation are possible at other times - entrance: donation

We also advise visits to:

The **“Punto Casale” Embroidery Museum** (Town Council of Serravalle pistoiese, Public Library, tel. 0573 917414, Tourist Information Office, tel. 0573 917308. Opening hours: Wed and Fri 9-12am) is situated in the Town Hall Meeting Room in the village of **Casalguidi**, a few kilometres away from Pistoia, and contains several real masterpieces that come from a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation.



Quarrata instead hosts the **Ernesto Franchi Collection** (private structure). At present (2009) the collection can only be visited on prior appointment, cell. 338 2792423. The Town Council of Quarrata is now preparing a new arrangement inside the La Querciola Didactic Centre: it contains utensils, furnishings and tools that were used by farmers up to the 1960's and 1970's, and usually made by reutilising other materials.



Provincia
di Pistoia
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