



A PORTRAYAL IN FIVE PICTURES.

The story begins way back **before the city**, when the territory where Turin was founded still lay beneath the sea, then moves on to the **ancient, medieval, modern** and **contemporary city**. Each period is marked by the most significant **dates**. Changes in terms of shape, structure and dimensions can be observed in **maps** of the city shown alongside one of Turin as it is today. And revealing changes in appearance, **images** of places that still today represent and encompass its history.

A SPECTACULAR MULTIVISUAL APPROACH.

The dark room becomes a theatre scene. Twelve “side-scenes” host screens on which **images** appear telling the story of Turin over time. **Photographs** in the centre of the room form a dialogue with images shown on the side-screens. On the floor, **maps** of the city over the centuries are shown in synch with images of the city. Short **texts** and an engaging **soundtrack** accompany this visual story. Exploring history has never been so easy... and so fascinating.

A FAITHFUL RECONSTRUCTION.

The selection of the multivisual content is the result of a painstaking task performed by a scientific committee, which identified the **400** places and most significant moments in the city’s history. Then over **20** researchers studied and documented these. This portrayal includes more than **1500** new photos taken by professional photographers, **40** hours of video material shot by specialised teams, and graphics and digital images of **30** maps of the city.

TURIN: THE HISTORY OF A CITY

is a project by



in collaboration with



with the support of



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TURIN:
THE HISTORY OF A CITY

A fascinating story told through visuals:
Turin today reveals
the city's many past faces.

Corte Medievale at Palazzo Madama

TURIN:
THE HISTORY OF A CITY

Houses and streets, mansions and churches, factories and squares all testify the story of this city. Yet they remain mute until the many stories associated with each place are revealed to us. Stories of yesterday, but also of today, because people who live and visit the city are part of it, with their memories and their knowledge that can be acquired, passed on and handed down.

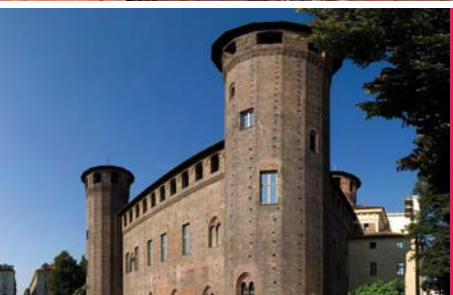
Turin: the history of a city is a multimedia presentation staged in Palazzo Madama. A story told through visuals, a fascinating and exciting experience that helps us to understand the city and its fundamental stages of development from way before it was founded right up to present days. A journey through time that invites us to see the city through new and different eyes.

Turin: the history of a city is also a permanent exhibition on the website www.museotorino.it, which contains also issue /1 of the museum’s magazine “Rivista museoTorino” dedicated to the contents of the multimedia presentation.

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The event takes place in the Corte Medievale at Palazzo Madama in Piazza Castello. It lasts 25 minutes and is repeated a number of times during the day at regular intervals. Times: Tuesday-Saturday 10-18; Sunday 10-20; Monday closed. **Free admission.**



THE HISTORY OF TURIN IN 5 ACTS

from 5 million
to 2 thousand years ago

BEFORE THE CITY

The story begins with an immense leap back in time to a completely different world from today. An account of the geological evolution of the territory in which Turin was founded, of why and how its characteristic features were formed. Features that fostered and conditioned its birth and development.

A time-scale marked by four stages. The formation of the continents, which was followed by the development of the river Po gulf at the foot

of the Alps, then the emersion of the hill and the creation of the plain with its rivers, up to the time when the Taurini settled this territory.

This helps to explain the fundamental features of the landscape as we see it today. Like the Rivoli-Avigliana morainic amphitheatre created by the expansion of the Susa Valley glacier, the narrow plain trapped between the Alps and the hill and the change in the river Po's course from south to north of this hill.

from 218 BC
to the 4th century AD

THE ANCIENT CITY

Before looking at the birth of Turin, the destruction of Taurasia and settlement of the Taurini who opposed the passing of Hannibal's troops as they descended from the Alps explains the true reason for founding the city, namely, for its strategic position.

Because of this, between 25 and 15 BC, emperor Augustus decided to establish the colony of Augusta Taurinorum to garrison the Alpine passes, but also with a view to expansion towards central-northern Europe.

The area it covered can be seen quite clearly thanks to the remains of

many sections of the Roman walls. These indicate its shape and size, its streets intersecting at right angle, a layout confirmed and widened later during the baroque period and that still today is a characteristic of the old city centre.

By the end of the 4th century AD a progressive "christianisation" of the city and consolidation of Episcopal power was underway and so the urban area was marked out by the building of new churches and basilicas.

from 591
to 1536

THE MEDIEVAL CITY

The third stage develops for almost one thousand years, from the election of Agilulf, Duke of Turin, to king of the Longobards up to the annexation of Savoy Piedmont to France.

Power changed hands many times over the centuries: first there was the Carolingian period followed by the rise of the March of Turin; later, times when the church held sway and then the commune of Turin. Points of reference also changed within the urban fabric, as the seat of government moved from the area near Porta Palatina to Porta di Susa.

Domination of the Savoy-Acaia family began in 1280 and the city developed

around the vital centres of power. Artisan and commercial activities sprang up around the Town Hall. The early years of the 15th century saw the founding of the university, a sure sign of the prestige the city enjoyed. Then in the late 15th century the old cathedral complex was transformed to become the new Renaissance Cathedral. When the old castle at Porta Fibellona, now Palazzo Madama, was restructured it became the seat of the court and so acquired increasing importance. In fact it often hosted the kings of France, who recognised that Turin was the "Gateway to Italy" through which they passed with their armies.

from 1580
to 1780

THE MODERN CITY

In 1563 Turin became the capital of the Duchy of Savoy and then in just two centuries it evolved from a small city-fortress into the majestic capital of what was recognised as being one of Europe's great kingdoms. Here, as time went by, dukes and kings, assisted by military engineers and brilliant architects, designed an ambitious city that aspired to prestige, grandeur and amazement. Works started with fortifications and extensions to defend and consolidate the capital's status. Then the

development of urban sites and construction of the "Crown of Delights", the royal residences that surrounded the city. Domes and chapels proposed admirable representations of the divine while monumental urban complexes gave evidence of the Savoy dynasty magnificence.

At the end of the 18th century Turin was one of Europe's great capitals, a splendid baroque city created by outstanding court architects, such as Vitozzi, Castellamonte, Guarini, Garove, Juvarra, Alfieri.

from 1808
to 2011

THE CONTEMPORARY CITY

The final act is marked by far-reaching changes in the city, with the demolition of the walls and consequent expansion that saw the creation of large piazzas, long tree-lined avenues, new quarters. But this was only the start because over the past two centuries Turin was to see a succession of significant changes and transformations. From capital of the Savoy monarchy to moral capital of Italy in its march towards

unification. From first capital of a united Italy to the driving force of the nation's industry. From outstanding example of the industrial town to a city that in a very few decades has managed to reinvent its image and take on a new identity. An ability and spirit expressed by the XXth Winter Olympic Games and today seen in celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy.

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Turin: the history of a city is part of MuseoTorino, a new kind of museum, unique in Italy and at international level. It is both a real and a virtual museum of the city created so that local people and visitors can get to know, understand and love it. Open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, MuseoTorino is a website - www.museotorino.it - where you can visit the city, move around it by means of a map, discover the history of every place thanks to informative inserts, images and texts that allow you to choose your own itinerary. And every time it can be a new and a different one. A chance to visit the city as it is today recognizing signs of its many past faces. To discover its history in its many places and the stories that they can tell us.

