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EXPERIENCE**

**FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA**

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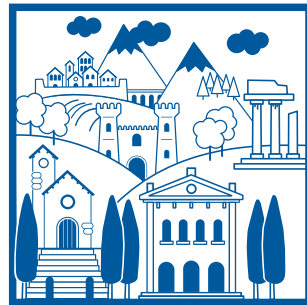
**BEST VILLAGES  
ART PEARLS**



**SLOW  
EXPERIENCE**



**Friuli Venezia Giulia to relish**  
*All the activities to help you slow down, relax, and discover the region's unhurried beauty.*



**ART &  
CULTURE  
EXPERIENCE**

**Friuli Venezia Giulia with art**  
*All the activities for exploring the region and its historical, artistic and cultural treasures.*

**OUTDOOR  
EXPERIENCE**



**Friuli Venezia Giulia on the go**  
*All the activities for a dynamic vacation filled with sports and adventure.*



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**Friuli Venezia Giulia for the family**  
*All the activities for a family-friendly vacation to discover all that the region has to offer.*

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*All the activities to discover the beauty of the region by bike.*



**TASTE  
EXPERIENCE**

**Friuli Venezia Giulia to savor**  
*All the region's fine food and wine tasting tours and activities*

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## ART PEARLS

*The world of small villages is one to explore that stimulates one's fantasy. In Friuli Venezia Giulia, there are no less than 29 hamlets in Italy's circuits dedicated to the most characteristic and well-preserved villages in the country: in visiting them, you can travel through the whole region, discover its essence and sense the diversity that characterises every single area.*

*For Friuli Venezia Giulia is a constant surprise in terms of its variety of landscapes and traditions: you will discover a tiny universe here made of secret castles, itineraries along the watercourses with their ancient mills, historical reenactments and crafts that have never been forgotten.*

◀ Venzone (UD)  
Best Village 2017



# ORANGE FLAG OF FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA



**Touring Club Italiano**

**Bandiere Arancioni**



ANDREIS



Andreis lies in the **Friulian Dolomites Natural Park**, at the entrance to the Valcellina, and, although it is just 455m above sea level, its landscape is in every way an Alpine one. One of the distinctive elements of the village is the widespread architecture of the traditional Andreis houses, unmistakable with their balconies in dark wood and their outside staircases. The many stone walls one encounters along its streets only add to the rustic domestic atmosphere.

The **Ethnographic Museum of Andreis** documents the ancient culture of the village through objects and reconstructed rooms, exploring the daily life of the Andreis community in the first half of the 20th century. Specifically, there is a reconstruction of a typical kitchen with the obligatory fireplace and *cjantonâl* (corner cabinet, used both as a table and a cupboard for provisions, dishes and cutlery), as well as a reconstruction of the alpine hut, where butter and cheese were produced.

Particular importance is given to the crafts of the time: the typical working of bone to produce snuffboxes and combs; the more traditional working of wood to produce footwear and household utensils; the mowing of the pastures; and the work of the woodsmen in cutting the timber and transporting it down valley. Andreis is also known as the 'village of eagles', since its Visitor Centre hosts the exhibition *L'Avifauna del Parco* (Birdlife of the Park), and the associated **Area Avifaunistica**



(Birdlife Area) for injured birds of prey. Above all, the village is an ideal destination for nature and sport lovers, and an excellent starting point for numerous hikes and incredible walks to explore the glorious nature surrounding it. It is also home to the **Nordic Life Park**, comprising a series of Nordic walking routes. In the village of Bosplans, along the ancient path that leads from Montereale to the

Andreis valley, and that from there continues to Barcis, there is an age-old fountain: carved from a single block of stone, it has supplied water to the Bosplans community and to passers-by since time immemorial. There is a stone bench near the fountain, engraved into which are verses, in the Friulian language, by poet Federico Tavan, born in Andreis.



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*Bandiera Arancione (Orange Flag)*



BARCIS



Set among the Dolomites in the heart of the **Valcellina**, Barcis overlooks a beautiful artificial lake where one can enjoy canoeing, sailing, kayaking, scuba diving and speed boating, along with other water sports, or simply take it easy by walking one of the nature trails along the shore, sunbathing or having a bite to eat in one of the special picnic areas. In the village centre, nestled on a terrace overlooking the emerald green lake, is the sixteenth century **Palazzo Centi**, now home to the proloco (organisation promoting the local community) and to the reception of the albergo diffuso (or dispersed hotel). The building has a magnificent double loggia, with segmental arches on the ground floor and rounded arches on the upper floor, and blends elements of the rustic Valcellina style with those of Venetian architecture. Built from natural

stone, it has a linear structure with a refined and supremely elegant simplicity. Visitors can take short hikes in the protected area surrounding Barcis to enjoy the area's natural beauty. In the oasis of the **Regional Prescudin Forest**, for example, at the foot of the **Crep Nudo** peak, they may come across a variety of protected animal species. Barcis lies within the **Cellina Gorge Nature Reserve**, which has its visitor centre in **Ponte Antoi**. This is where the most impressive stretch of the spectacular canyon begins, carved out by the Cellina River over the centuries, formed of sheer rocks that plummet vertically to the river's crystal waters below. Captivating and evocative, a section of the old Valcellina road (open April-October) can be enjoyed on foot, by bike or on board the special train.



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# CIVIDALE DEL FRIULI



**Cividale del Friuli**, which is crossed by the Natisone River, combines the essence and characteristics of a cosy and refined village with a lively city spirit. The town has been awarded the **Bandiera Arancione** (Orange Flag) by the **Touring Club Italiano** for being culturally vibrant and forward-looking, yet remaining linked to its traditions and history. The town boasts many jewels: the **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, the Monastery of Santa Maria in Valle, the **Lombard Temple**, the Christian Museum, the Archaeological Museum, the **Podrecca-Signorelli Centre** and numerous events. Head down the charming town centre streets to explore the **Celtic Hypogaeum**, gaze at the Natisone River from the Devil's Bridge, admire the **Cathedral**, churches and elegant buildings or explore the enchanting landscapes that surround the town. Whatever you decide to do, you will not be disappointed if you pop into the local establishments to sample the culinary delights, accompanied with the fine wines of the Colli Orientali del Friuli.

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*Bandiera Arancione (Orange Flag)*

**GUIDED TOURS AND BOOKINGS**  
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# FRISANCO



Immersed in the **Friulian Dolomites Natural Park**, the village of Frisanco's natural beauty blends with the beauty of its traditional houses in wood and bare stone, where spacious balconies open onto flag-stoned streets. To arrive in Frisanco, surrounded by the **Carnic Prealps** and bathed by the Meduna River, is to enter a magical, astonishing place, where green hills with fruit-bearing plants and vegetable gardens alternate with conifer woods and mountain pines, which then give way to rock and scree. The Friulian Dolomites Natural Park

organizes tours and hikes to explore its unspoilt nature. The park's Visitor Centre is in the old dairy in **Poffabro**, one of the **Borghi più belli d'Italia** (Most Beautiful Villages in Italy). The Visitor Centre comprises four sections: on the ground floor is the dairy itself, while the second floor covers the pastures and the nature of the park and the Val Colvera. On the ground floor, after a brief look at the history of dairies in the region, the focus moves to Frisanco: the initial meetings, the foundation of the Latteria Sociale Turnaria

Company of Poffabro-Casasola in October 1932, the building's opening in 1933, and its management until the second half of the 1960s. Frisanco's council offices house the **Mostra Da Li Mans di Carlin**, an exhibition of traditional objects and buildings of farming life in the **Val Colvera**, which has now died out. The remarkable thing is that the whole collection is in miniature, in 1:10 scale, patiently and carefully crafted by Carlin, an elder of the valley, and the result of over thirty years' work. Various traditional regional elements

are included, such as the houses, mill, hydraulic hammer and church, all in miniature and all with working parts and fittings. The first Sunday of September sees the traditional event **Paesi Aperti** (Open Villages), held across village streets and courtyards, a chance to get to know the Valcellina, its traditions and its typical dishes.



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*Bandiera Arancione (Orange Flag)*







**Maniago** officially enters into existence on 12<sup>th</sup> January 981, upon Emperor Otto II confirming Aquileia Rodoaldo as Patriarch of the *cortem que vocatus Maniacus*. Maniago is in a strategic position, as the point of access to the Cellina, Colvera and Meduna valleys, thus it is believed to have ancient origins. In the period of Venetian dominance, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the town began to develop a very particular craft for which it is still famous

all over the world: for over 600 years, local blacksmiths and cutlers have been producing every type of blade imaginable, from kitchen knives to scissors, from work tools to corkscrews, from stiletos to swords and spears. Originally manufacturing these for the Republic of Venice troops, they now make them for the cinema industry. The *Museo dell'Arte Fabbile e delle Coltellerie* (Museum of the Art of Blacksmiths and Cutlers) is the place to go to trace

the evolution of this long history and understand its propensity for development then and now. Maniago is also a place with historic and natural trails, perfect for those who enjoy immersing themselves in the unique scenery between the Magredi plains and the mountains beyond. Situated at the gateway to the Friuli Dolomites, packed with hikes, cycling and walks of varying levels of difficulty, this is the ideal destination for active people.



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 Comune di Maniago

*Bandiera Arancione (Orange Flag)*



## SAN VITO AL TAGLIAMENTO



**San Vito al Tagliamento** an easily reachable village of about fifteen inhabitants, a friendly and supportive town, a place of history, art and events that worth a visit. An ancient past welcomes the visitor with medieval and **Renaissance architectures**, with pieces of art and frescoes in the churches and in the elegant buildings. An historic center comes from the castle, between squares and streets, refined gardens and majestic **parks, museums and theatres**, and spreads his story and the precious-

ness of the past; everything is close at hand. A biennial award, an international competition for little violinists, a summer appointment with the grand opera on the square and an international festival of contemporary art are just a few of the moments not to be missed, in a lively succession of events that add value to the usual prose, classical music and jazz seasons. The Crown jewel is the ancient public **Theater G.G.Arrigoni**.



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*Bandiera Arancione (Orange Flag)*





# AUTHENTIC VILLAGES IN ITALY



ASSOCIAZIONE



**BORGHİ  
AUTENTICI**  
D'ITALIA





**Forni di Sotto** is the largest municipality in Carnia and is believed to have already been inhabited in pre-Roman times. The castle ruins are still visible in **Chiastelàt** (960 m AMSL). The village was completely destroyed in 1944 by the Nazis who burnt it in retaliation. Forni di Sotto has managed to preserve the historic fountains of the three boroughs; the village was divided into three boroughs and rebuilt around these fountains after the war. The village's history is unique. In fact for a long time, together with Forni di Sopra, it constituted the autonomous territory of the so-called Forni Savorgnani, owned by the powerful Savorgnan family who had received this land from the patriarchs of Aquileia. Its name probably derives from "furno", i.e. a furnace for melting minerals. In fact, in ancient times, the minerals extracted from the surrounding mines were processed in this area.

The village is the ideal starting point for hikes along the peaks of the upper Tagliamento Valley and walks in the Friulian Dolomites Park, whose eastern part extends into the area.

The **San Lorenzo church** (St Lawrence Church) which is situated in a charming location at the edge of the town, is well worth a visit. The church was built between the 14th and 15th century, has a characteristic portico with a small bell gable and is frescoed with one of the most important series by Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo, one of the main 15th-century Friulian painters. The 1492-dated frescoes represent the Doctors of the Church, the Martyrdom of Saint Lawrence, the Annunciation and Saints.



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LAUCO



The name **Lauco** probably derives from the Latin word “locus” (place) and the first historical references date back to the year 914. On the Lauco plateau (700 m high) there are three pistes for cross-country skiing and stunning mountain bike and trekking trails for nature enthusiasts. Lauco and its hamlets are also worth a visit on account of their small architectural and artistic masterpieces. The most typical village is **Borgo Cavocjarie**; the **House of Elena Cimenti** (in via Centrale) is also very characteristic and a fine example of the architecture of times gone by. The All Saints Parish Church is also interesting and its construction began in the eighteenth century. Trava deserves to be seen for its sixteenth-century Church of the Holy Name of Mary and the eighteenth-century **Palazzo Beorchia**, a typical example of Carnic architecture featuring a series of loggias. Lauco is home to a multi-building hotel;

a unique opportunity to enjoy unforgettable peaceful and tranquil moments in the unspoiled natural surroundings which are full of charm and a thousand panoramic views of rare beauty. Among the many walks of various lengths and difficulty that you can take, one of the most interesting is the one that leads to the **Tombe dei Pàgans** (Tombs of the Pagans). This is what the locals have been calling these three ancient tombs from time immemorial, probably since the 6th or 7th century when they were carved in the rock at Chiauians, on the Lauco plateau. More rock-carved tombs have been identified which con-

firms that this area has been inhabited since ancient times. Neolithic tombs were also discovered in Lauco (which have now been lost) and Celtic weapons from the 2nd or 3rd century BC. The **Vinadia Stream** canyon is located near Lauco, and is one of Carnia’s most beautiful “natural monuments”. Among the traditional festivals that are held here, those worthy of mention are the **Good Friday Historical Re-enactment** - Stations of the Cross and the **Lancio das Cidulas** (Wooden Wheel-Throwing Festival), held in Buttea on the 30th of October and Pesmolèt on the 31st of October.



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## RAVASCLETTO



In the heart of Carnia, **Ravascletto** and the **Zoncolan** offer comfortable ski lifts, sunny slopes that will please everyone and wonderful mountaineering and snowshoeing trails during the winter season. In summer, Ravascletto is the ideal destination for nature hikes, alpine pasture tours, horseback riding, cycling or biking in order to discover its enchanted woods and silent peaks. The Zoncolan, a famous stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, is among the most sought-after destinations along with the **Panoramica delle Vette**, an enchanting trail immersed in the beauty of the high mountain with breathtaking views. This resort town is also known for its excellent cuisine, presented to guests in late August at the "**Fiestas Cortes**" (Courtyard Festival); houses and courtyards open up to the public so that flavours and ancient traditions can be discovered. Ravascletto is proud to have been designated as an Authentic Village of Italy, thanks to its splendid boroughs that have managed to preserve many old Carnic houses.



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f Ravascletto – Zoncolan Sole&Neve

📷 ravascletto\_zoncolansoleneve

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RAVEO



**Raveo**, one of the smallest villages in Carnia and the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, lies in a green and sunny valley that extends between the Carnic Alp mountains. The area of Raveo has been the location of settlements since the pre-Roman age. This has been proven by recent archaeological excavations on Mount Sorantri, which have revealed the existence of a Celtic village. It seems that there also was a castle in its vicinity, but the precise location remains unknown.

Even though the 1976 earthquake permanently compromised the original face of Raveo, some worthy-of-note buildings still remain and can be seen

when strolling along the quiet village streets. Nature lovers will find the **Cladonde Waterfall** absolutely stunning. This wonderful and very beautiful waterfall is nestled amongst the crevices of the mountain and can be reached on foot in 40 minutes with a walking tour. The magnificent Madonna di Raveo Sanctuary was built in 1619 and is located halfway down the ancient cobbled road that connects the village to Valdie.

Fully immersed in nature between the Valdie, Pani and Col Gentile districts, this small Carnic village boasts a unique, soothing and very enchanting atmosphere. The Municipality of Raveo stands out for its nu-

merous craft shops and is renowned for its production of the typical Raveo “Esse” (S-shaped) biscuits



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## SAURIS / ZAHRE



Sauris, an “Alpine Pearl”, is dotted with pastures and alpine pastures. With an elevation of 1000 to 1400 metres AMSL, it is the highest municipality in the entire Friuli Venezia Giulia region. It is said that this German-speaking community was founded by settlers from Austria, who brought the customs

and traditions of their homeland with them. The various types of architecture with simple and functional elements of Lower Bavarian influence are a distinctive feature of the Sauris landscape. Sauris’ name is tied to that of its exquisite, **slightly smoked PGI prosciutto** which is produced

according to the traditional local recipe. Raw, unpasteurised and unfiltered local beers pair well with the prosciutto. The vast Alpine pastures allow tasty Malga cheese to be produced, in addition to many products for the agri-food sector. The very sweet berries and their by-products are also well appreciated here. The



unique environmental conditions and the difficulty reaching the neighbouring villages, have allowed this village to keep its traditions consistent, in regards to its language (a High German dialect), cuisine, religious festivals and folk festivals, such as **il rito del Carnevale** (Carnival Rite). The main protagonists of

this festival are the Rölär, who is covered in soot and carries noisy bells, and the Kheirar, who is armed with a large broom.



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SUTRIO



**Sutrio** is a small village on the slopes of **Mount Zoncolan**. Known for its woodworking tradition, this resort town is becoming an increasingly sought-after tourist destination due to its strategic position. It is just a few minutes from the ski slopes during the winter period and the destination of many cyclists during the summer who cannot wait to tackle the “mythical” Zoncolan climb. The nearby “Terme di Arta” thermal bath spa, where you can relax and rediscover the pleasure of calm and tranquillity, is only

a few kilometres’ drive away. There are also important cultural and food and wine events in Sutrio, which attract many tourists from the region as well as the neighbouring Veneto region, Slovenia and Austria. The **Tenonativity** scene is well-known; it is a miniature reproduction of the village which was completed by woodworking master Gaudenzio Straulino over the course of more than 30 years. The nativity has become a very important tourist attraction which attracts a large number of visitors year after year.

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# THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN ITALY



I Borghi  
più belli  
d'Italia



## CLAUIANO



The first settlements in **Clauiano** date back to the Roman Empire, but the village was mentioned for the first time in 1031. It was destroyed by the Saracens and rebuilt to withstand the invasions of the Middle Ages, thus making it become a village of *Pieris* and *Claps* (rocks and stones in the local vernacular). The buildings were built around St George's Church in the south and St Martin's Church in the north: some of the first homes that were built and are still standing are the **Gardellini House**, the **Beltrammi House** with its beautiful internal courtyard and the Tonutti Campagnolo House, which contains a valuable fresco. Between the year 1600 and 1700, the north and south nuclei merged together by expanding their boundaries and assuming the current form of the village. Many parts of the Colussi House, Dri House, Minin House and Palladini House complexes date back to this period. In the 1700s, Villa Ariis, Villa Manin and the Zof Piano House were all built with typically-decorated porticos. Barnaba Manin House, Calligaris Foffani House and Bosco House are from the same period but have older origins. The St George the Martyr Church was also built in the eighteenth century. In the mid-nineteenth century, the big families improved the town's economy by building a spinning mill. The **Villa Manin Guerresco**, an exquisite eighteenth-century aristocratic residence, is also worth a special mention. Numerous events are held annually at Clauiano. During these events, the magnificent medieval village opens its doors and courtyards to charm its visitors with glimpses of ancient beauty.



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*Borghi più Belli d'Italia (The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy)*  
*Città del Vino (City of Wine)*



## CORDOVADO



**Cordovado** is a small jewel of Western Friuli, steeped in history and valuable monuments. It is enriched by a splendid castle set in a **medieval village**, the **ancient Shrine to the Virgin Mary** which is a gem of Baroque art and an **ancient parish** dating back to the 15th century. The village is made even richer by its natural environments which harmoniously fit into a fascinating and primordial trail. This land provided poetic inspiration to great literary figures such as Ippolito Nievo and Pier Paolo Pasolini. Cordovado encompasses a large agricultural com-

plex (Curtis) near the ford on an ancient branch of the Tagliamento River, which the bishops of Concordia fortified in the 11th or 12th century. They chose the **castle** as the seat of civil, military and ecclesiastical powers. Since 2004, the Municipality of Cordovado has been listed as one of the **Borghi più Belli d'Italia** (The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy). Furthermore, on the 1st Sunday of September every year since 1986, it has held the magnificent historical re-enactment called the **“Palio dei Rioni”** (Palio of the Districts).

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 @turismoCordovado

*Borghi più Belli d'Italia*  
*(The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy)*



## FAGAGNA



**Fagagna** stands on a hill north-west of Udine, in a location with beautiful views of the surrounding hills and plain. The castle, which today is little more than a ruin, stands on a site that has been inhabited since Roman times, even if the first official documentation dates back to the Patriarchal Age (983 AD).

Only a few elements of the ancient fortifications have survived, including fragments of the city walls, the village gate, the castle's clock tower (converted into bell tower), the ruins of the main tower, a small fourteenth century house and the little church of St Michael the Archangel which is believed to

have been the ancient oratory of the castle-dwellers and was already built by 1386. Among the village's civil buildings, the Renaissance-period **House of the Community** stands out with its beautiful downstairs loggia. A white stork reintegration project has begun in the **natural Oasis of Quadris**, which is close to



the modern inhabited area. It is quite common to meet a pair of storks nesting on house roofs or street lamps along the road to Colloredo di Monte Albano from Fagagna. The **Cjase Cocél** provides a genuine insight into

the rural life of the last century. It is not just an ethnographic museum, here you can truly experience how life in an ancient rural cottage would have been. All the rites of early twentieth-century Friulian rural life are

re-enacted in this building made entirely from stone. The traditional **"Corse dai Mus"** (Donkey Race) has taken place every year in Fagagna's square on the first Sunday of September since 1861.



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www.turismo.fvg.it

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(The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy)*

### Cjase Cocél Museum of Rural Life

**Guided tours and bookings**  
Open Sunday afternoons  
from April to November.  
Tel. +39 0432 801887

### For school and group visits:

Tel. +39 0432 812111  
cultura@comune.fagagna.ud.it  
www.comune.fagagna.ud.it



## GRADISCA D'ISONZO



Set on the right bank of the Isonzo River, **Gradisca d'Isonzo** is centrally-located for the First World War related historical tourism and the Karst Plateau. As it is a stage of the “Alpe Adria Trail”, Gradisca d'Isonzo is especially appreciated for its nature, architecture and city parks. A Central-European-style salon, immersed in greenery and ready to tell a story that's more than nine centuries old, welcomes the visitors to Gradisca d'Isonzo. A noble city that, especially from the 16th century onwards, played a key role in the Republic of Venice's defensive system against Turkish invasions. In fact, the Most Serene Republic of Venice fortified the town so powerfully that the old Gradisca town was enclosed in 1479 by a formidable city wall. Gradisca's remarkable architectural heritage progressed in leaps and bounds under the Princes

of Eggenberg. This was during the 17th and 18th century, at a time when the city's transformation into a **Princely County of Gradisca** was already underway. The four centuries of Hapsburg influence left a strong historical impression, which nowadays combines with a distinct business and cultural brilliance. This is proven by the numerous events held in the various city spaces, prestigious theatres and the “**Luigi Spazzapan**” **Regional Gallery of Contemporary Art**. There are many restaurants and food facilities, such as “**La Serenissima**” **regional wine bar**, where you can sample the best wines of Friuli Venezia Giulia. Wine is without a doubt the most important food and wine product here, with its various typical, high-quality varieties from the Isonzo, Collio and Karst Plateau DOC (Denomination of Controlled Origin) areas.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

I.A.T. Office

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Tel. + 39 0481 960624 – [prolocogradisca@virgilio.it](mailto:prolocogradisca@virgilio.it)

[www.prolocogradisca.it](http://www.prolocogradisca.it) – [www.comune.gradisca.go.it](http://www.comune.gradisca.go.it)

 [prolocogradisca](https://www.facebook.com/prolocogradisca) – [comune.gradisca.go.it](http://comune.gradisca.go.it)

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**Palmanova**, the only example of a planned city that is still intact with its **nine-pointed star shape**, is one of the most important examples of military architecture in the modern age: a fortified structure organised around three circular lines of defence and an urban fabric arranged along radial axes. The city can be entered through its three **Porte** (gates). It was founded by the Serenissima Republic of Venice with the aim of preventing the expansionist ambitions of the Habsburgs and the Turks.

On 7 October 1593, the first stone of the Fortress was laid. Two defensive lines were built with ramparts and ravelins, and within these the urban layout of the city was created. A third fortified wall was added in the Napoleonic era. In 1960, Palmanova was proclaimed a National Monument. Since 9 July 2017, **Palmanova has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, one of the “Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th centuries: Stato da Terra – western Stato da Mar” (Mainland Domain and western Domain of the Sea).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
GUIDED TOURS AND BOOKINGS**

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Borgo Udine, n. 4  
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www.turismofvg.it

 **ComunePalmanova**

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## POFFABRO



**Poffabro** is an open-air museum in the heart of the **Colvera Valley**. Its “magical power” is in the spell-like effect of flush-cut stones and wooden balconies, straightforward and austere elements that also add a sense of intimacy and reflection to the enclosed courtyards, or the long rows of 16th and 17th-cen-

tury houses. The beauty of the village lies in the humble stone pillars, staircases, balustrades and arches, which are in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature. The Covera Valley, where Poffabro stands, has had heavy foot traffic since the Roman times, as it was crossed at the foot of

**Mount Raut** by the road that opened the way to the north through the Alps from the military colony of Julia Concordia. The area contains traces of ancient settlements, but the first concrete evidence is found in the archives of the bishop of Concordia. In fact, already in the 11th century, the Parish of Pof-



fabro was catalogued among his possessions. The second concrete proof is a 1339 arbitration verdict where “Prafabrorum”, the “meadow of the blacksmiths” is mentioned. A part of this document states that the “decimam de Pratum Fabri”, was set aside by the aristocrat Galvano di Maniago for his son

Nichilo in his 1357 testament. Poffabro in the Covera Valley, is counted as one of the “Borghi più belli d’Italia” (The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy).



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## POLCENIGO



The strategic position of the area of **Polcenigo** and its natural resources has made Polcenigo a suitable place for human settlements since prehistoric times. The Municipality is of significant interest to tourists due to its many historical, artistic, natural, accommodation and food service elements, some of which are truly exceptional. It houses the **Art of Cooking Museum**, in memory of generations of cooks who emigrated all over the world. Considered as one of the most beautiful villages in Italy, Polcenigo is bordered by the **Cansiglio Forest**, where you will find 3 currently-active alpine pastures and numerous association-run huts. It has an extremely strong link to water. The **Gorgazzo** springs, crystal clear waters that rise out of a Karst cavity are undeniably fascinating. Nearby, you can admire the large and spectacular springs of the Livenza River which, despite only emerging a few dozen metres above sea level, give rise to a watercourse with a considerable flow. The

**Holy Trinity Church** lies in this area: built between the fourteenth and sixteenth century, it features a majestic seventeenth-century wooden altar with an aedicule by Domenico da Tolmezzo (1496), a valuable wooden choir, various altarpieces and numerous frescoes. You can admire **Palù di Livenza**, one of the oldest Palaeolithic sites in northern Italy, which was added to the **UNESCO** list of “**Prehistoric pile-dwelling sites around the Alps**” in 2011. **St Florian’s Rural Park** extends over an area of around 65 hectares and is the only natural and rural park in Italy. It is a guided, educational reserve that preserves local flora and fauna. At the top of the park lies a church that was built before the year 1000, which features several valuable frescoes. Numerous farms produce local niche products such as saffron and fruit, whilst skilled butchers process meat. A typical three-century-old event in Polcenigo is the **sagra dei Thést** (Basket festival) which includes those made from wicker, rush

and raffia and is held on the first Sunday in September. During the month of May in 2014 and 2016, the Palù di Livenza Palaeolithic site held the “**Humus Park**” **Land Art international event** which saw many artists participate from all over the world. The event will return again in the future, in collaboration with the Municipalities of Caneva and Polcenigo.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# SAPPADA



**Sappada** (or Plodn in the old, local dialect) is a German language island that extends through the high valley of the Piave River. In summer, Sappada is an enchanting landscape of colourful fields and balconies decked with flowers. On your excursions you'll encounter crystal clear waters, the perfume of wood and the excellent culinary traditions that make Sappada so unique. In winter, a white snowy blanket makes the area all the more magical. No matter what the season, the activities that Sappada has to offer are suitable for everyone but are particularly appealing to families and our younger guests: from the attractions in the **Nevelandia** Park, to **geocaching** and **sled dogs**, all this and much more awaits you in Sappada. There is a beautiful trail between the villages of **Old Sappada**, which recently became part of the **Borghi più belli d'Italia**, an association of small Italian towns of historical interest. To visit is to dive into the history and traditions of the valley and each village has its own unique customs.

## Events

**Sappada Carnival / Plodar Vosenòcht:** Sappada Carnival is an intense festival of traditions, folklore, celebration and good fun. With wooden masks made by craftsmen or enthusiastic participants, visitors can take part in bringing to life the traditions of times gone by. The date changes from year to year, but it takes place during the winter months of January and February.

**Sappamukki:** This celebration heralds the return of the cows from the high pastures. It takes place over two days during the second weekend in September. A procession of decorated cows parade through the Sappada villages, followed by shepherds and characters in costume. Various local bands perform, including the folkloric group Holzhoekar. The celebration then continues with music, food and markets selling local agricultural produce, a selection of Sappada's delicacies.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
GUIDED TOURS AND BOOKINGS  
Ufficio Turistico Pro Loco Sappada,  
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Tel. +39 0435 469131  
prolocosappada@gmail.com  
www.alte dolomiti.it

Alte Dolomiti Sappada Val Comelico

*Borghi più belli d'Italia  
Bandiera Arancione*





## SESTO AL REGHENA



The **Village of Sesto** with its pre-Roman origins, owed its greatest development to the **Benedictine Abbey** foundation in the first half of the eighth century, and the Lombard donation in 762, which was followed by many others. In 899, it endured a devastating invasion by Hungary and was rebuilt and fortified from 960 onwards, taking on the appearance of a

fortified medieval castle with a defensive system consisting of towers and moats. Sesto al Reghena was ruled by the Patriarchate of Aquileia until 1420, when it passed under Venetian domination until the Commenda was abolished in 1784. The basilica houses remarkable Giottoesque frescoes, the crypt-preserved **Urn of St. Anastasia**, the fifteenth-century Pietà and the

1300-dated Annunciation. In the Abbey Square, you can admire the City Hall, where the abbots used to reside, the **Abbey Chancellery**, the seat of civil power in medieval times, and the 11th-12th-century belfry together with the **Grimani Tower**, the only surviving defence tower of the seven that once surrounded the monastery.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Infopoint Office

Piazza Castello, n. 5  
33079 – Sesto al Reghena (PN)  
Tel. + 39 0434 699701  
infopoint.sesto@tin.it  
www.comune.sesto-al-reghena.pn.it

 Le Vie dell'Abbazia

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### GUIDED TOURS AND BOOKINGS

Free audio guides are available from the tourist office for individuals.

#### Santa Maria Abbey Parish Church in Sesto al Reghena

Tel. +39 0434 699014  
abbaziasestopn@libero.it



## STRASSOLDO



**Strassoldo** is a hamlet in the municipality of Cervignano del Friuli, in the province of Udine. It is a rare example of an ancient, extremely well-preserved and exceptionally charming medieval village. The cradle of the Patrician family of the same name, it provided the Habsburg Empire of Austria with a long line of important officials and generals. Today, the 18th century restoration of the monumental complex is evident, divided into the Castello di Sotto (lower castle) and the Castello di Sopra (upper castle), however, the shape of the ancient castle, used for purposes of defence and attack, can still be seen. The **Castello di Strassoldo di Sopra**, like the adjacent Castello di Sot-

to, is nestled in the heart of the medieval village and surrounded by a centuries-old park with crystal clear spring water streams. It is a so-called “water castle” and one of the very few in Europe that still belongs to the same family that built it more than a thousand years ago: the Counts of Strassoldo. To get to the main part of the castle, you go through the Porta Cistigna gate and along the Borgo Vecchio as far as the church of San Nicolò. The complex is surrounded by a succession of buildings once used for agricultural purposes, as well as craftsmen’s houses, barns and the chancellery. A little further on, beyond a romantic rice mill, you enter the area of the Castello di Sotto. The interiors

are still beautifully adorned with antique furniture and portraits of ancestors, with an atmosphere of a place where history has never been interrupted. The church of San Nicolò stands in the centre of the village of Strassoldo. It preserves, among other things, a Lombard stone cross, evidence of its antiquity. **Castello di Sopra has a charmingly beautiful garden**, created in the mid-18th century, where a 14th century Magnolia Passiflora gracefully dominates the surrounding space. Leaving through the Porta Cistigna, you can see an ancient 12th century mill, which was in operation for more than seven hundred years. Its old machinery is preserved inside.



Just outside the walls of the medieval village stands Villa Vitas, preserved in the heart of a centuries-old park crossed by a long avenue of magnolias that disappears into the vineyards of the estate, in the heart of Friuli Aquileia DOC territory. The stylistic features of the villa and a

document dated 1776 (describing its status in 1744) trace the date of construction to between the late 17th century and the early 18th century. In 1937, the entire property was purchased by the Commendator Romano Vitas, the great-grandfather of the current owner who chose it as the

headquarters of the family-run winery. All the most famous autochthonous wines of Friuli are produced, such as Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso, Ribolla Gialla and Friulano. All products, including grappas and sparkling wines, can be tasted and purchased in the company store.



**FOR INFORMATION**  
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### GUIDED TOURS AND BOOKINGS

**Castello Di Strassoldo**  
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33052 – Cervignano del Friuli (UD) – Strassoldo  
Mob. +39 328 7956140 – info@castellodistrassoldo.it  
www.castellodistrassoldo.it

### GUIDED TOURS AND BOOKINGS

**Villa Vitas**  
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Tel. +39 0431 93083 – info@vitas.it – www.vitas.it



## TOPPO DI TRAVESIO



The **village of Toppo**, in the municipality of Travesio, preserves the remains of the **medieval castle** that once overlooked the plain and the village below. The complex is a fine example of Friulian fortified architecture. In 1220, the village of Toppo con-

sisted of eight *masi* (family-run rural houses). There were twenty-five documented *masi* in the sixteenth century. **Palazzo Toppo Wasserman**, originally a *maso* which was later developed into a noble country house in the sixteenth century, will start off the

route where you can discover the village's original, well-preserved, stone buildings. In the square facing the Palazzo you will also be able to see a seventeenth-century stately residence with an entrance arch. This was the summer residence of the



Counts of Spilimbergo. A lovely bike path connects the village of Toppo to **Travesio**, which houses one of the most significant examples of Friulian Renaissance painting. Two works of art by the Lombard stonemason Giovanni

Antonio Pilacorte are preserved in the ancient **Parish Church of St. Peter**: the 1484-dated, interior portal of the sacristy which is the first known work of Pilacorte in Friuli, and a baptismal font. But above all, the splendid

frescoes by Giovanni Antonio de Sacchis, known as **the Pordenone** can be found on the walls and the vault of the choir. Toppo is counted as one of the "Borghi più belli d'Italia" (The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy).



### FOR INFORMATION

#### Tourist Office

Palazzo Toppo-Wassermann  
Via Verdi, n. 98  
33090 - Toppo di Travesio (PN)  
Tel. +39 0427 90350  
turismo@comune.travesio.pn.it

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#### Opening Time

Monday through Friday  
9:30 - 14:00  
Saturday and Sunday  
10:00 - 13:00  
www.castelloditoppo.eu

 @ufficioditoppo



## VALVASONE



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Associazione A Spasso per Il Borgo  
(The Village's Walking Association)  
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33098 – Valvasone Arzene (PN)  
Tel. + 39 0434 898898  
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info.valvasone@gmail.com  
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 Associazione A Spasso  
per il Borgo – Valvasone Arzene

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The **village of Valvasone** has retained its medieval appearance with its lovely narrow Venetian streets and ancient dwellings with porticos. The imposing castle which overlooks its homonymous square, houses Late Gothic and Renaissance frescoes and a 18th-century precious wooden theatre. The **Cathedral of the Holy Body of Christ**, which owes its title to the miracle of the Sacred Tablecloth relic preserved there, houses a monumental organ. It is the only example of sixteenth-century Venetian organ art in Italy and

is embellished with the wonderful artistic frame of the Pordezone and Pomponio Amalteo. The Church of Holy Saints Peter, Paul and Anthony the Abbot, which was once a hospice that provided shelter to pilgrims and travellers, preserves valuable sixteenth-century frescoes and a seventeenth-century portable organ. The cloister of the **former Convent of the Servite Order** is also fascinating. It was built in the fifteenth century and has now been partially rebuilt on its ancient foundations.





**Venzone** is the best-preserved fortified village in Friuli Venezia Giulia. It is an extraordinary example of architectural and artistic restoration. The devastating earthquake of 1976 completely destroyed the only fourteenth-century walled village in the region, however, the inhabitants did not surrender to the natural disaster and demanded that their village be rebuilt stone by stone exactly as it was. Thus, Venzone returned to being a fortress village, whose great moat-encircled walls can still be admired today, together with the three access gates, one of which, the **Gate of San Genesio**, still has an intact watchtower. The heart of the town is the **Cathedral of St. Andrew the Apostle**, a significant example of the Gothic style. Another is the **Town Hall**, which is embellished with a loggia featuring the sixteenth-century frescoes of Renaissance painter Pomponio Amalteo on the back wall. The upper part of the palace which is accessed via a formal stair-

case, is further refined by a series of lobed mullion windows. Besides the clock, the tower erected on a corner of the palace features a bas-relief depicting the Lion of Saint Mark, a symbol of the Venetian domination. A succession of sixteenth-century palaces line the streets of Venzone featuring facades refined by mullion windows, three-mullioned windows and typical Venetian Gothic-style balconies. One of the best preserved noble houses, the 16th-century **Palazzo Orgnani-Martina**, is situated in the main street. It houses the “Forests, Man and Economy in Friuli Venezia Giulia” Museum; a permanent exhibition on FVG’s ecosystem. The “**Tiere Motus - story of an earthquake and its people**” permanent exhibition reconstructs the events related to the 1976 earthquake.

*Do not forget that the village of Venzone is included in the Parco Naturale delle Prealpi Giulie*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Via Glizio di Mels, n.5/4 – 33010 – Venzone (UD)  
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provenzone@libero.it; info@venzoneturismo.it  
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- proloco.venzone
- FestaDellaZuccaVenzone
- Provenzone
- Venzone / festadellazucca\_venzone

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# HISTORIC SEASIDE VILLAGES



**BORGHI**  
viaggio italiano





The ancient village of **Duino** (**Devin** in Slovenian) is situated between the southern slope of Mount Ermada/Grmada (323 m) and the white cliffs that plunge into the Adriatic Sea. The romantic ruins of the old castle and the imposing fortress of the new castle with its rooms, park, bunker and breathtaking views can all be found in this beautiful village. The manor

house, the former home of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis can be visited, along with its elegant garden. The stunning “ulca”, i.e. narrow alley, leads away from the church along the walls of the castle and is surrounded by picturesque houses. There is also the marina, Dante’s islet, the **wood of Cernizza/Črničje**, which is crossed by paths which lead to the paleontological site

and the springs of the **Timavo/Timava** River. Mount Ermada makes for an interesting hiking destination with its sinkholes, caves, First World War trenches and Coische/Kohišče ruins. The **Rilke Trail** runs through the **Duino Cliffs Nature Reserve**, making this seaside village a tourist destination that remains etched on the hearts and minds of its visitors.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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*Historic Seaside Village*

FOR INFORMATION ON GUIDED  
TOURS AND BOOKINGS

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Tel. +39 040 208120  
info@castellodiduino.it  
www.castellodiduino.it





Suspended between land and sea, **Grado** lies in the middle of the northernmost Adriatic lagoons and boasts over 1600 years of history. This can still be seen along the roads of the ancient Roman castrum, where the **Early Christian Basilica of Sant'Eufemia** and the **Basilica of Santa Maria della Grazie** are located.

Enchanting scenery of indisputable beauty and extraordinary natural wealth, the Grado **lagoon** extends over 90 square kilometres and includes two **natural reserves** that safeguard its biodiversity.

The calm and clean sea, gently-sloping shallow water, numerous fine sandy beaches and engaging entertainment activities for adults and children, in addition to the good cuisine, comfortable dining venues and numerous accommodation facilities, make this resort very safe and secure.

Grado has always provided the best for its guests, having been awarded the **Blue Flag** for the environmental quality of its water and services for 27 consecutive years now.

**FOR INFORMATION  
ON GUIDED TOURS  
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www.grado.info



*Historic Seaside Villages*



## MARANO LAGUNARE



The village with the tower that stands out. “**Millenaria**” (thousand-year old) is what the locals call it, more to underline its importance than to bestow a precise age. You can see it peep out from this suspended place whilst sailing from afar and it immediately appears to be in a world of its own. It is located in a cosy position between the last coastal tip of Lignano and the Lagoon of Grado, and protected from the open sea by a series of islands and islets, such as those of Martignano and Sant’Andrea, also known as the Island of Shells. Up until the end of the

nineteenth century, the area was surrounded by walls: not even the Turks in the sixteenth century managed to break through. In addition, the Republic of Venice, which ruled these lands from the fifteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century, tried to keep control of the village in every way possible. Its population is still grateful to this day; the Most Serene Republic of Venice respected local autonomy and the inhabitants of Marano Lagunare are still proud to say that they are from the only Friulian town where Venetian is spoken. However, in addition to

creating linguistic and cultural patterns, the Republic of Venice also had a strong architectural influence on **Marano**. The town centre is a succession of narrow Venetian lanes and small squares, overlooked by houses, which open onto communal areas for meetings and outdoor work. The buildings are adorned with decorations that tell of an ancient history: bas-reliefs, stone faces and coats of arms. Here, in the lagoon lies the **Regional Nature Reserve of the Stella River Mouth**, which cannot be reached by land. The delta of the **Stella River**, along which one can sail



up to Precenicco and Palazzolo dello Stella, can only be reached by water. If you leave your boat at a marina, you can visit the area via the special tourist motor vessels. You will then enter an exceptional microcosm, a birdwatching paradise; Western marsh harriers, mute swans, purple herons, grey herons and great egrets are just some of the species living among the reeds that border the riverbed. You will enter the far river mouth from one of the most charming branches of the delta, along a route that has been used for almost forty years by a motor ves-

sel that ferries tourists so that they can discover the lagoon. You will have the chance to witness a rare beauty: a **village of fishermen's huts**. These reed and wood huts had a fireplace in the middle and were furnished only with what was necessary for survival. All of the huts face west: it is the side most protected from the Bora and Tramontane north winds. Today it is possible to dock here, thanks to a wooden landing stage. Don't miss the **St. Vitus Festival** with the ancient sea procession which takes place every year on the first Sunday after the 15th of June.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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*Historic Seaside Villages*





In the last stretch of Italy, the coast seems to fall back on itself and this is where **Muggia** Bay lies, a typical Istrian-Venetian resort. When you dock at the picturesque harbour, it will almost seem as if you are entering the narrow Venetian lanes and small squares. The Venetian atmosphere is not only inspired by the architecture; the dialect, customs and gastronomic traditions reveal an intense past

shared with the **Most Serene Republic of Venice**. If you look at Muggia from the sea, the white Istrian stones and the colourful houses create a harmonious whole with the green Karst environment. It is framed by seven kilometres of coastline and a range of hills that dominate over a vast Italian and Istrian area. Just before the year 1000, a small town called Borgolauro developed in the valley

at the marina; the Municipality of Muggia stemmed from this new village in the thirteenth century. The **cathedral and town hall**, which were rebuilt in the twentieth century, are from that era. However, up on the headland that overlooks the harbour, there is evidence of an even older history: the remains of the protohistoric castelleri (fortified boroughs) of Santa Barbara and Muggia Vecchia,



where the Romanesque **Basilica of Muggia Vecchia** (9th century) stands as the only testament, together with the remains of the walls, of a Roman and medieval past. From here you can enjoy a wonderful view of the Gulf of Trieste. **Muggia Castle** dates back to the 14th century, although it has been restructured several times over the centuries and once dominated the defensive circle of walls around the town. Interestingly enough, Muggia's inhabitants used its original sandstone blocks to build their homes. Even today, this small

town boasts a unique atmosphere when you stroll through the narrow Venetian-style lanes and the beautiful **Piazza Marconi**, the pulsating heart of the town, or stop at the Mandracchio to watch the fishermen at work. Do not miss out on the **Muggia Carnival**, or "*Carneval de Muja*", whose classical and traditional Venetian origins mix with influences from the Istrian peninsula; an amazing show which includes colourful floats and masks each year.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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4 ground floor  
Tel. +39 040 3360220  
[www.comune.muggia.ts.it](http://www.comune.muggia.ts.it)  
[www.benvenutiamuggia.eu](http://www.benvenutiamuggia.eu)  
[urp@comunedimuggia.ts.it](mailto:urp@comunedimuggia.ts.it)

*Historic Seaside Villages*



NOT TO BE  
MISSED

### GUESTS OF A LIVING HAMLET IN FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Old, typically rural homes, venerable farmhouses and stables have been carefully restored to provide guests with welcoming accommodation in the picturesque locations where they are sited. Staying here means entering a world embellished with unique features not to be found elsewhere, the focal point of which are the people who live here, who make it unique by speaking a special language, by creating craft objects from local materials, by cooking authentic dishes whose fragrance wafts through the air like an invitation.

Discover the **alberghi diffusi**  
(literally: 'scattered hotels')  
in the Hamlets and Art centres  
of Friuli Venezia Giulia:

[www.turismofvg.it](http://www.turismofvg.it)

Discover all the **events**  
in Friuli Venezia Giulia's villages:

[www.turismofvg.it](http://www.turismofvg.it)

Discover the **historic houses**  
in the villages of Friuli Venezia Giulia

[www.turismofvg.it](http://www.turismofvg.it)









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## HOW TO GET

### BY CAR

Highway

A4 Torino - Trieste

A23 Palmanova - Udine - Tarvisio

A28 Portogruaro - Conegliano

### BY PLANE

Trieste Regional Airport

40 km from Trieste and Udine

15 km from Gorizia

80 km from Pordenone

[www.aeroporto.fvg.it](http://www.aeroporto.fvg.it)

### BY TRAIN

[www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it)

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