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EXPERIENCE

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## **ANCIENT FAITHS, RECENT FAITHS**

*A land where peoples and cultures mingle: Friuli Venezia Giulia was always thus. Christianity has very ancient origins here; in order to establish itself and convince the people of the new message, it had to take the same path as the pre-existing Celtic, Jewish and Roman beliefs, deal with heresies and schisms, and reconcile folk beliefs with the Patriarch of Aquileia's learned theology. The result is a very deeply-rooted religious spirit, which means that Marian shrines and small country churches, precious early-Christian mosaics and the *Biblia pauperum*, solemn hymns and folk songs can co-exist without contradictions. Similarly, the ancient Christian and Jewish faiths have been joined in recent years by the faiths of the communities of recent immigrants, especially Islam, plus a Buddhist temple and a Shinto shrine.*

# AQUILEIA ECCLESIA MATER



A religious itinerary in Friuli Venezia Giulia could only start from Aquileia. A city of the Roman Empire, in the 3rd century it had already become a major centre of Christianity and for the evangelisation of eastern and northern Europe. With 57 dioceses, the metropolitan province of Aquileia was the biggest of mediaeval Europe, second in dignity only to Rome, but unique for its bringing to-

gether of people of different languages and ethnic origins. The supremacy of the Church of Aquileia was established when the town's bishops took the title of patriarch, and with the building of the basilica, an episcopal centre for liturgical celebrations and for instructing catechumens.

The **Basilica of Aquileia** is one of the most outstanding monu-

ments of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region for all that it has represented for Christianity over the centuries, for its historical

## INFO:

Basilica and Bell Tower of Aquileia  
TEL. +39 0431 919719  
[basilica.aquileia@virgilio.it](mailto:basilica.aquileia@virgilio.it)  
[www.basilicadiaquileia.it](http://www.basilicadiaquileia.it)

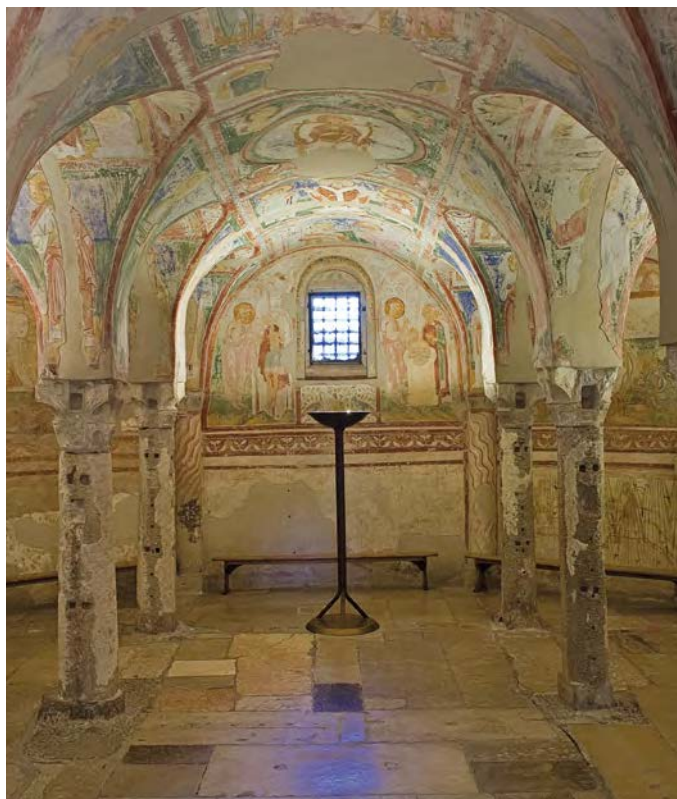
Early-Christian Museum  
TEL. +39 0431 91131  
(Thursday 8.30-13.45)  
[museoarcheoaquileia@beniculturali.it](mailto:museoarcheoaquileia@beniculturali.it)



and artistic heritage and, lastly, for the importance it still has for the local community.

The present building is the result of reconstructions and restorations through the centuries. The architectural layout dates from the 11th century, but the basilica's true treasure, the mosaic floor, is from the 4th century. It was laid at the behest of Bishop Theodore immediately after Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan in 313 CE. The figurative layout – some patches of which are still mysterious and difficult to interpret – depicts the journey towards eternal salvation. The mosaic in the South Hall covers 760 square metres and is the largest mosaic floor in the Western Roman Empire. Though not as big, the mosaics in the North Hall (seen in the crypt of the archaeological site) are just as important, as is a mosaic fragment called "of the peacock" now in the South Hall

Another early-Christian complex of Aquileia is the late-4th-century basilica of Monastero, which now houses the **National Early-Christian Museum**.



Detail of the basilica's mosaic floor  
Frescoes in the apse of the basilica



# EARLY-CHRISTIAN TRACES FROM AQUILEIA TO TRIESTE



## INFO:

Parish of Grado  
TEL. +39 0431 80146  
[parrocchia.grado@libero.it](mailto:parrocchia.grado@libero.it)



## GRADO: THE BASILICAS

The town of Grado was originally the seaboard port of call for Aquileia. It grew considerably from the 5th century onwards when part of the population of Aquileia moved to the coast to

flee from Attila the Hun. However, Grado's greatest expansion took place following the Longobard occupation of Friuli in 569 CE, when Bishop Paul moved from Aquileia to Grado,

marking the beginning of the "doubling" of the patriarchate. From that moment on there were two patriarchs, the patriarch of Aquileia and that of Grado. The centuries-old bond between the two towns also came to an end: from then on Grado's ties were with the Mediterranean area and Byzantium while Aquileia looked only to continental Europe.

### **Basilica di Santa Eufemia**

Consecrated in 579, the basilica has a spectacular mosaic floor which is much closer to the Byzantine style than the one in Aquileia. The interior has three naves; there is a large fresco on the apsidal semi-dome, a gilded silver altar-piece (a masterpiece of Venetian goldsmithing) and an unusual pulpit with a Moresque-style sounding board.

### **Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie**

The basilica, too, has early-Christian architecture and dates from the 5th-6th centuries. Items worthy of note inside the basilica include the geometric-patterned floor mosaics, the altar, the stoup, and a wooden statue of the Madonna delle Grazie, to which the people of Grado are devoted.





## SAN CANZIAN D'ISONZO: MARTYR SAINTS CANTIUS, CANTIANUS AND CANTIANILLA

Even the name of the village reveals the locality's connection with the cult of the martyr saints Cantius, Cantianus and Cantianilla, three brothers from a rich and powerful family of Aquileia. Tradition has it that in 303, during Diocletian's persecution, the three were martyred in the present-day San Canzian d'Isonzo, where traces of the basilica dedicated to them were found in addition to vestiges of their tomb, which are now in the **parish church**.

Their martyrdom is commemorated every year on the first Sunday in June when the saints' relics are displayed.

The nearby **little church of San Proto** is dedicated to two other martyrs of Aquileia, Protus and Chrysogonus. The **little church of Santo Spirito** is also worth a visit.

### INFO:

Parish of San Canzian d'Isonzo  
TEL. +39 0481 76044

## DUINO: CHURCH OF SAN GIOVANNI IN TUBA

On the road from Aquileia to Trieste, at the river head of the Timavo, **the church of San Giovanni in Tuba** includes vestiges of a 5th-century early-Christian basilica, which it seems was

built over the remains of an even older rectangular sacellum, thought to be a Christian building associated with the cult of the Baptist.

### INFO:

Soprintendenza  
of Friuli Venezia Giulia  
TEL. +39 040 4261411



## MULTI-RELIGIOUS TRIESTE



*A city on the sea and, above all, the only point of access to the Adriatic for the Austrian Empire, to which the city belonged at the time. In 1719 Trieste was declared a free port and so it became a cosmopolitan, multilingual and multi-religious city. Over the centuries, Italians, Slovenes, Germans, Serbs, Croats, Hungarians, Greeks, Swiss, British, Armenians and Jews met and settled in Trieste. Each community brought its own faith and many still have a place of worship in the town.*

The **Cathedral of San Giusto** (St Justus) is the city's most important Catholic building and is

set on the top of the hill of the same name. The cathedral assumed its present appearance in the first half of the 14th century when two pre-existing churches were unified. It has a very beautiful white-stone Gothic rose window decorating the façade.

The interior is divided into five naves and is decorated with 13th century frescoes, depicting the life of Saint Justus, and mosaics in the two side apses, executed by craftsmen from Venice and Ravenna.

#### INFO:

Parish office  
TEL. +39 040 3224576  
[san.giusto.martire@gmail.com](mailto:san.giusto.martire@gmail.com)





## SYNAGOGUE OF TRIESTE

Inaugurated in 1912, the monumental synagogue is a tangible reflection of the importance of the Jewish community in the city's economy and culture in the early 20th century. It is one of the biggest synagogues in Europe and

features different styles which, together, produce the effect of an original, highly evocative construction. Next to the synagogue are the offices of the Jewish community, a library, the archives and the mikveh (ritual bath).

### INFO:

Jewish Community of Trieste  
TEL. +39 040 371466  
[info@triestebraica.it](mailto:info@triestebraica.it)

## EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

The presence of Evangelicals was another result of Trieste's status as a free port, which in the 18th century attracted people from different places, including a number of Swiss nationals who set up mercantile agencies or were bankers or insurers. Inspired by the principles of the Enlightenment, the empire extended religious freedom to non-Catholics and when Emperor Franz Joseph ordered that various churches be sold off, the evangelical

community of the Swiss denomination bought at auction the basilica of San Silvestro, the city's oldest church, dating back to the 11th or 12th century. From then on it was the main church for this faith and, from 1927, for the Waldensians. The Lutheran evangelical community had its own church built on Largo Panfilì; the neo-Gothic church opened for worship in 1874. Lastly, in the 19th century the Evangelical and Lutheran communities that were already

settled in the city helped the new Methodist church and in 1898 it obtained its own place of worship, the chapel of the former Evangelical cemetery in Via del Monte.

### INFO:

Swiss and Waldensian Church  
TEL. +39 040 632770  
[elvetici.valdesi@virgilio.it](mailto:elvetici.valdesi@virgilio.it)  
[triestevangelica.org](http://triestevangelica.org)

Methodist Church  
TEL. +39 040 2415915  
[chiesametodistatrieste@virgilio.it](mailto:chiesametodistatrieste@virgilio.it)  
[triestevangelica.org](http://triestevangelica.org)

## ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF SAN SPIRIDIONE AND SAN NICOLÒ DEI GRECI

A religious-architectural itinerary in Trieste must certainly include the orthodox churches of the Serbian and Greek communities. The Serbian Orthodox church is in the centre of the Theresian Quarter, which was laid out at the behest of Empress Maria Theresa in the mid-18th century. Dedicated to St Spyridon, its artistic importance makes it one of Trieste's

most-admired architectural landmarks. It has a classic Greek cross ground plan of Eastern tradition and is topped by five domes in a distinctive blue shade. The Greek Orthodox church is dedicated to St Nicholas, patron saint of sailors and shipowners, and is set on the shore. It was built there because at the time Trieste was a rich port and trading centre, thanks

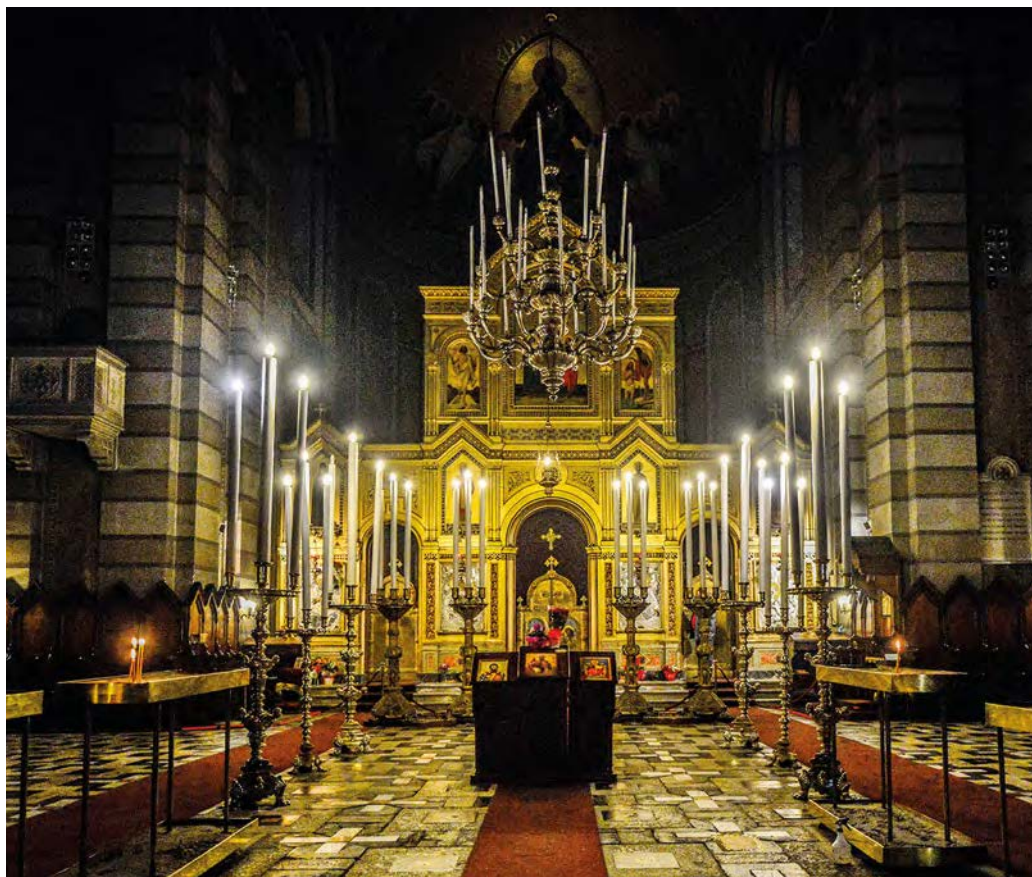
not least to the numerous Greek merchants whose boats, loaded with goods, arrived every day in Trieste.

### INFO:

Serbian Orthodox Community  
TEL. +39 040 631 328 - [crsoit@tin.it](mailto:crsoit@tin.it)

Greek Orthodox Community  
TEL. +39 040 635614  
[comgrots@tin.it](mailto:comgrots@tin.it)

↓ *Inside the church of San Spiridione*





## GORIZIA, A MITTELEUROPEAN TOWN



*Part of the Austro-Hungarian empire until 1918, Gorizia, too, has a history of religious openness. Based on the principles of the Enlightenment, the empire guaranteed religious freedom to non-Catholics and so the city took in many Jews expelled from Venetian territories at the end of the 18th century.*

**Gorizia Cathedral**, dedicated to the city's patron saints, Hilary and Tatian, is in the Baroque style with three naves, two galleries and women's galleries and a large tribune for the organ and choir.

Among the important works of historical and artistic interest inside the cathedral are the grave-stone of the last Count of Gorizia, the high altar, the side altars and the early-18th-century pulpit.

The altar-piece is the work of Giuseppe Tominz, a 19th-century painter known for his portraits of the bourgeoisie of Gorizia and Trieste. The musician angels depicted on the ceiling of the Cappella di Sant'Acazio, now the sacristy vestry, display particular beauty and elegance.

The **Synagogue of Gorizia** is in the ancient ghetto. It was built in 1756 and used by the Jewish community until 1969 when it was amalgamated with the synagogue in Trieste; today it is no longer regularly used for worship. On the ground floor is an educational museum displaying ritual

articles, artefacts, books, photographs, documents and prints related to the history of Gorizia's Jewish community. An internal staircase leads to the temple on the first floor, which has its original 18th-century aspect. Here, one can admire the women's gallery and the Torah Ark, which faces Jerusalem. The museum is run by the Associazione Amici di Israele di Gorizia (Assoc. Friends of Israel in Gorizia).

### INFO:

Gorizia Cathedral  
TEL. +39 0481 530193  
[cattedrale@arcidiocesi.gorizia.it](mailto:cattedrale@arcidiocesi.gorizia.it)  
[cattedrale.arcidiocesi.gorizia.it](http://cattedrale.arcidiocesi.gorizia.it)

### INFO:

Piccola Gerusalemme sull'Isonzo  
Synagogue of Gorizia  
TEL. +39 0481 532115





## INFO:

Parish of Santa Maria Annunziata  
TEL. +39 0432.505302  
info@cattedraleudine.it

Museo Diocesano and Tiepolo Galleries  
TEL. +39 0432 298056 - fax 0432 298057  
info@musdioc-tiepolo.it

*An unmissable place to visit for lovers of Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's work, Udine has a number of his masterpieces in the cathedral and the Tiepolo Galleries.*

The façade of the **Cathedral of Santa Maria Annunziata** is based on transitional Gothic models.

The imposing, monumental interior is Baroque and houses many works of art by artists such as Pomponio Amalteo, Il Pordecone, Pellegrino da San Daniele, Il Torretti, Domenico da Tolmezzo, Louis Dorigny and, of course, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, who created the small altar-piece of the Resurrection and, above all, the fresco with an Angel Choir which gracefully emerges from the ceiling to herald, with wondrous beauty, the young Tiepolo's enormous potential. The Tiepolo itinerary continues

in the Palazzo Patriarcale, the residence of the patriarchs of Aquileia from 1593 to 1751. Today it is the bishop's residence and in addition to the splendid frescoes in the **Tiepolo Galleries** it houses the **Diocesan Museum** with a collection of 700 works of art. The wooden sculptures are of particular interest. The library of Patriarch Delfino is of considerable historical and artistic importance. There are exquisite illuminated manuscripts, incunabula, books published in the 16th century and rare first editions.

## NEARBY

# GEMONA DEL FRIULI: MUSEUM OF THE PIEVE AND THE TREASURE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The museum has paintings and sculptures by local artists (13th-19th c.) and religious furnishings that came from churches of

Gemona which were destroyed in the 1976 earthquake and no longer used after the reconstruction. A major section is devoted

to magnificently illuminated 13th- and 14th-century manuscripts of the Bolognese-Paduan school, liturgical books and musical codices. The Treasure of the Cathedral has some of the most beautiful pieces of 15th-century jewellery of Friuli.

### INFO:

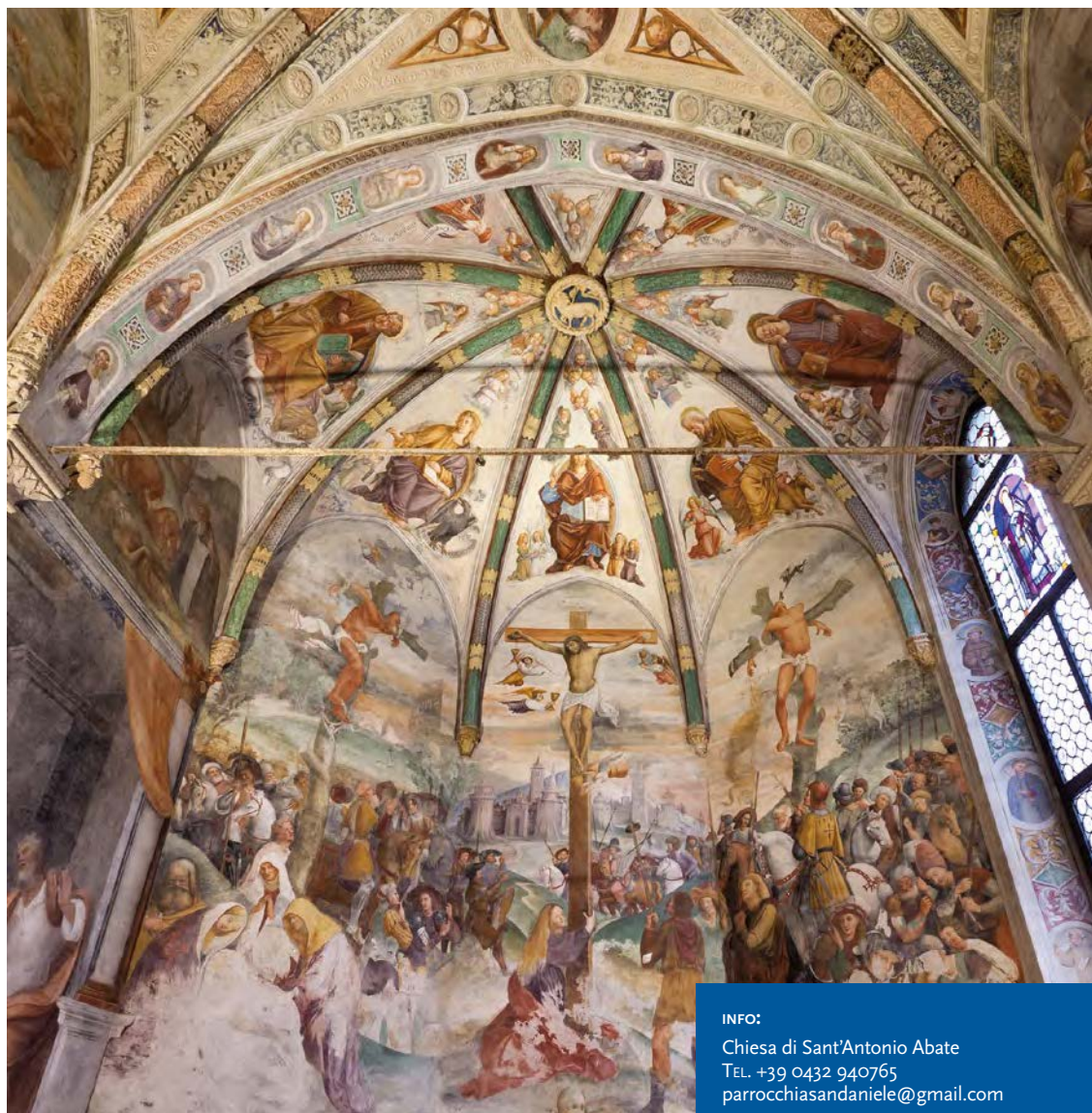
Museo della Pieve & Tesoro del Duomo - Gemona del Friuli  
TEL. +39 0432 980608  
[gemona@diocesiudine.it](mailto:gemona@diocesiudine.it)





## NEARBY

# SAN DANIELE DEL FRIULI: CHIESA DI SANT'ANTONIO ABATE



### INFO:

Chiesa di Sant'Antonio Abate  
TEL. +39 0432 940765  
[parrocchiasandaniele@gmail.com](mailto:parrocchiasandaniele@gmail.com)

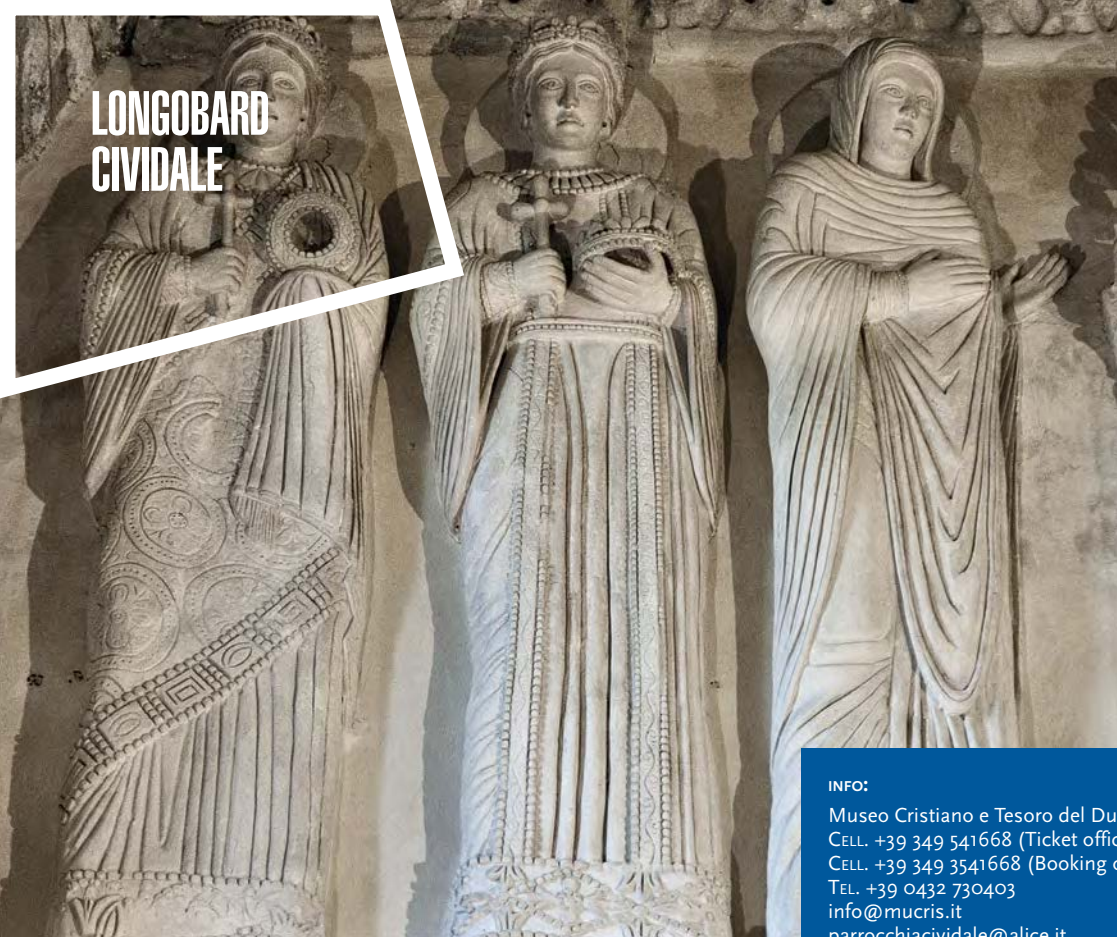
The church of St Anthony the Great is in the old centre of San Daniele del Friuli, its construction was connected with the activity of an ancient hospital.

The interior is embellished with three cycles of frescoes, one of which is the work of Martino da Udine, better known as Pellegrino da San Daniele, who

executed the cycle from 1497 to 1522. The side windows are of extreme interest: two of them are original and date from 1487.



## LONGOBARD CIVIDALE



### INFO:

Museo Cristiano e Tesoro del Duomo  
CELL. +39 349 541668 (Ticket office)  
CELL. +39 349 3541668 (Booking office)  
TEL. +39 0432 730403  
[info@mucris.it](mailto:info@mucris.it)  
[parrocchiaciviale@alice.it](mailto:parrocchiaciviale@alice.it)  
[www.mucris.it](http://www.mucris.it)

Tempietto Longobardo  
and Monastero di Santa Maria in Valle  
TEL. +39 0432 700867 (Ticket office)  
TEL. +39 0432 710460 (Booking office)  
[info@tempiettolongobardo.it](mailto:info@tempiettolongobardo.it)  
[www.tempiettolongobardo.it](http://www.tempiettolongobardo.it)

*An unmissable destination for those who want to know about Friuli Venezia Giulia, Cividale del Friuli preserves precious vestiges of its Longobard past and is the starting point of the UNESCO itinerary focused on the legacy of this mysterious people.*

The **Museo Cristiano del Duomo** has some of the most representative pieces of the Early Middle Ages, especially of the Longobard era. The most important is undoubtedly the Ratchis Altar, which is dateable to 737-744, the years when Ratchis was duke of Friuli before he took the crown of the Kingdom of the Lombards. The Baptistry of Calixtus is also very important and dates

from the period when Patriarch Calixtus was in Cividale, 737 to 756. The Treasure of the Cathedral has a co-ordinated collection – presented in an entirely unprecedented form – of jewellery, liturgical articles, paintings and sculptures, manuscripts and codices, and precious vestments which clearly demonstrate the absolute importance of the ancient Longobard capi-

tal's several-thousand-year-old Christian history. One of the most important remains of Longobard Cividale is the **Small Longobard Temple in the Monastery of Santa Maria in Valle**. Built in the second half of the 8th century, it has a square hall with a cross vault ceiling and includes frescoes executed by Byzantine craftsmen and beautiful decorations.

## NEARBY PULFERO: SAN GIOVANNI D'ANTRO

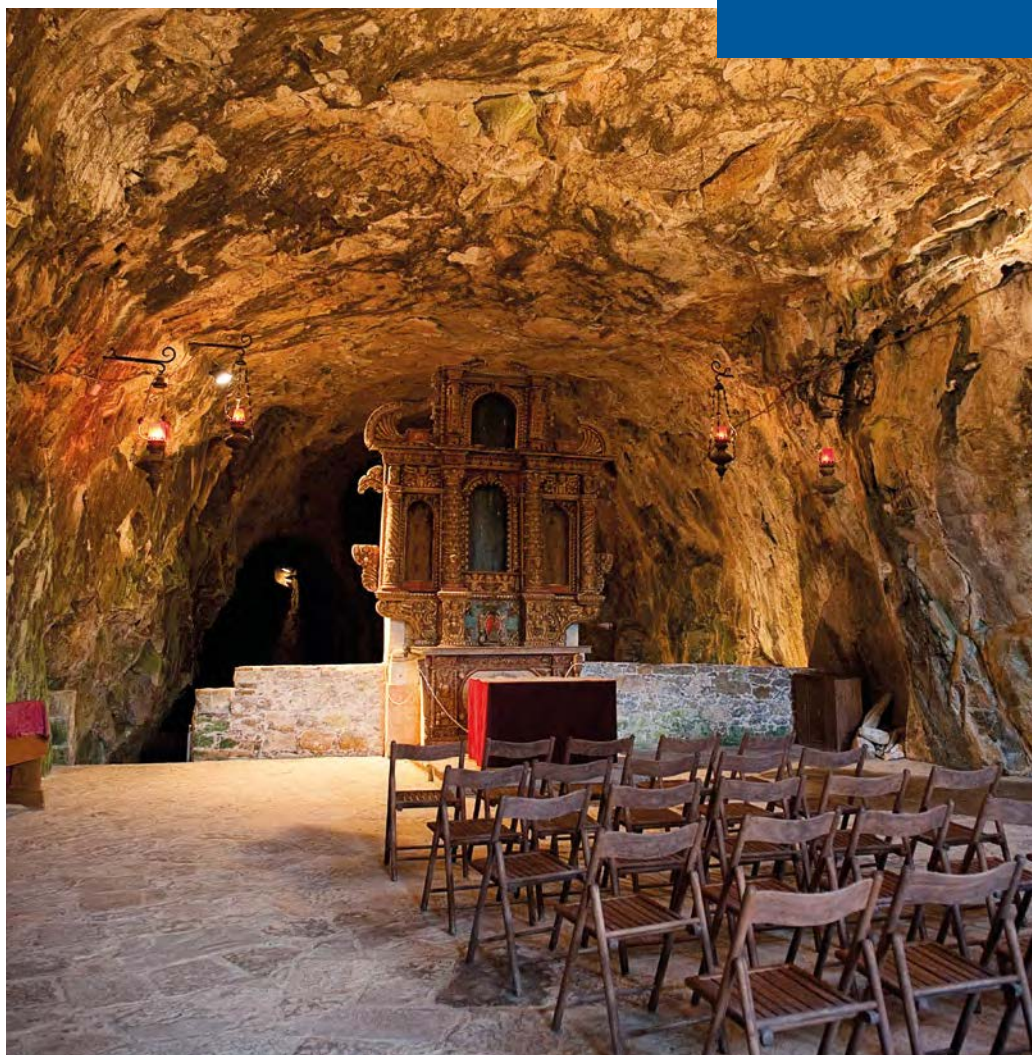
The cave of St John of Antro provided shelter for the native population from ancient times onward and in the 8th century it also became a place of worship. A climb of one hundred steps leads to the fortified en-

trance. Inside is a chapel and a fine 18th-century wooden altar, of the Slovenian school, with 16th-century statues attributed to Giovanni Martini's studio. There are continuously-growing limestone formations in the

cave, of which several hundred metres may be visited.

### INFO:

Grotta di San Giovanni d'Antro  
CELL. +39 339 7779367 (sig. Bruno)  
TEL. +39 0432 726017  
protocollo@com-pulfero.regione.fvg.it  
www.comune.pulfero.ud.it





# PORDENONE, THE PAINTED TOWN



*Called “the painted town” because of the frescoes on the façades on buildings in the old town centre, Pordenone’s cathedral houses other works by its most famous artist, Giovanni Antonio de Sacchis, better known by the name of his town, Il Pordenone.*

Built from the 13th century onward, the **Duomo di San Marco** was later enlarged to include the big polygonal, windowed apse between the two smaller apses and, from 1593, the six side chapels. The unfinished façade has an elegant central stone portal by Giovanni Antonio Pilacorte (1511), a stone mason from Ticino who worked at length in Friuli in the 16th century. The single-nave interior was finalised in the 18th century. The very beautiful stoup (1506) and the font (1508) are also by Pilacorte.

St Mark’s Cathedral has works by Giovanni Antonio de Sacchis, called Il Pordenone, the greatest Renaissance painter in Friuli. His are the altar-piece of the high altar, dedicated to St Mark, the Misericordia altar-piece and the frescos of St Roch, St Erasmus and the Virgin and Child. The St Roch fresco (1515-1518) is a true masterpiece and is traditionally believed to be a self-portrait of Il Pordenone. In the side chapels are frescoes by Giovanni Maria Zaffoni, called Il Calderari, and an altar-piece by Pomponio Amalteo.

## INFO:

Parish of San Marco  
TEL. +39 0434 520403  
[sanmarco-pn@libero.it](mailto:sanmarco-pn@libero.it)



The **Diocesan Museum of Church Art** houses religious sculpture, frescoes, paintings, drawings, prints, fabrics and furnishings, mainly from the local area and dateable from the 7th to the 19th centuries.

There are, in particular, works by Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo, Giovanni Martini, Giovanni Maria Calderari, Francesco Guardi, Alvise Casella and Pomponio Amalteo.



**INFO:**

Museo diocesano d'arte sacra

TEL. +39 0434 524340

[museo@diocesi.concordia-pordenone.it](mailto:museo@diocesi.concordia-pordenone.it)

[www.diocesi.concordia-pordenone.it](http://www.diocesi.concordia-pordenone.it)

## NEARBY

## SAN VITO AL TAGLIAMENTO: SANTA MARIA DEI BATTUTI

The history of this 15th-century church is connected with that of the ancient hospital founded by the Confraternita dei Battuti (a confraternity of penitents). The church's interior has a major cycle of frescoes by Pomponio Amalteo, executed from 1535 onwards. Also worthy of note are the choir altar by Pietro Baratta with statues of the Holy Virgin and Saints Peter and John the Baptist; and the frontal high reliefs with the Virgin of Mercy, the Nativity, the Circumcision of Jesus and musician putti.



**INFO:**

Antico ospedale della Confraternita di Santa Maria dei Battuti

TEL. +39 0434 8411

TEL. +39 0434 833295

## SPILIMBERGO: DUOMO DI SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE



The construction of St Mary Major began in 1284 next to the ancient town walls, of which it incorporated a tower that was converted into the bell tower. The cathedral was initially designed in a different style: in fact

it started under the influence of Romanesque art, but was slowly built during a period of transition when Gothic art first appeared then prevailed, giving majesty and elegance to the cathedral. The cathedral's finest

treasures are the 14th-century frescoes in the apses.

### INFO:

Parish of Santa Maria Maggiore  
TEL. +39 0427 2059  
[s.mariamaggiore@tin.it](mailto:s.mariamaggiore@tin.it)

# WALKING TRAILS



# THE HEAVENLY WAY



The Iter Aquileiense, or Heavenly Way, is an international religious walking trail which goes through three countries (Italy, Austria and Slovenia), converging on Mount Lussari on the furthestmost border of north-eastern Italy, where there is a Marian shrine called “of the three peoples” because it is a destination for pilgrims from the three nations. The Italian stretch is about 200 km and starts in Aquileia, formerly a patriarchal seat and a centre for

the spread of Christianity across central Europe. Brezje, near Kranj, was chosen for Slovenia; it is the most important place of prayer to the Mother of God in Slovenia. In Austria, Maria Saal, above Klagenfurt, and its splendid pilgrimage church built around the 8th century played an important role in the history of Carinthia and for the cultural and religious identity of central Europe.

The Italian route features a wide

variety of scenery. Pilgrims and tourists may enjoy a range of experiences: see small country churches or famous shrines such as Castelmonte, visit towns rich in history and art like Cividale del Friuli or delight in the quiet calm of the forests and nature parks.

INFO:

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

# THE CARNIC PIEVI TRAIL



Isolated, perched on hills or high ground, standing guard over the communities and villages below, the pievi are the ancient baptismal churches built in the countryside, centres of evangelisation in rural areas. There are ten in Carnia, founded from the 5th

to the 14th centuries. They still boast wonderful works of art, which bear witness to the deep-felt religious spirit of mountain people. Zuglio, the ancient Roman Iulium Carnicum, was the most important centre for the spread of Christianity in Carnia in the early years of the faith. In the ancient basilica of Zuglio (of which there are only a few remains) the alpine inhabitants who converted to Christianity were baptised and received the

sacraments. In the same period, individual pievi were built in the surrounding areas where the parish inhabitants went to receive the same sacraments. Devised as a spiritual and religious pilgrimage, the Carnic Pievi Trail is also an excellent way of getting to know important historical and cultural aspects of this region. The Trail is also suitable for families; the average length of each stage is approximately 14 kilometres.

INFO:  
[www.camminodellepievi.it](http://www.camminodellepievi.it)



# THEMED ROUTES

## THE BENEDICTINE ABBEYS WAY

This walk is a journey along ancient routes. It crosses Friuli Venezia Giulia, connecting the ancient Benedictine abbeys of San Gallo in Moggio Udinese, Rosazzo in Manzano, and S. Maria a Sesto in Reghena, descriptions and directions for which are to be found later on in this guide.

This itinerary is also an opportunity to see places rich in religious spirit, to learn about the history of monasticism as you go through various areas, starting from the Julian and Carnic Alps to the Colli Orientali del Friuli zone and ending on the plain near Pordenone, at the Reghena river on the border with Veneto.

A journey through history that reveals extremely interesting places around the region.

**LENGTH** (MOGGIO UDINESE - MANZANO - SESTO AL REGHENA):

154 KM

**TIME REQUIRED:** YOU NEED AT LEAST TWO FULL DAYS TO DO THE WHOLE ROUTE.



## MANIAGO: THE FRASSATI TRAIL

The trail is named in honour of the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young man born in Turin; he loved the mountains and was an expert mountain-climber. The CAI (Italian Alpine Club) has set

up a national scheme for creating a trail in his name in each Italian region.

In Friuli Venezia Giulia, the trail goes through the municipalities of Maniago, Fanna, Frisanco and Andreis and can be divided into three stages. It is a wonderful trail offering a mixture of history, faith and nature. From the plain of Maniago it rises through the Carnic Prealps, in Val Colvera

and Val Cellina, through small towns and villages of immense beauty, such as Poffabro. The many churches, chapels and monasteries dotted along the route clearly testify to the region's centuries-spanning religious history.

**LENGTH:** 39 KM

**TIME REQUIRED:** 15 HOURS

**ELEVATION GAIN:** 1401 M

**DIFFICULTY:** EASY FROM MANIAGO TO POFFABRO

### INFO:

CAI, Maniago branch  
TEL. +39 0427 730749  
maniago@cai.it  
cai.maniago@libero.it



# NATISONE VALLEYS: VOTIVE CHURCHES

A route through the unspoilt, almost wild scenery of the Natisone river valleys, connecting 44 small 14th-century religious buildings which testify to the uniqueness of this region and its special bond with Slavic and Germanic cultures. In fact all these little churches display the style known as “flamboyant Gothic” which came from

neighbouring Slovenia and, specifically, from Škofja Loka. Some churches still have 16th-century frescoes and gilded wooden altars of the Slovenian school. The full route takes several days, but it can be done in stages as one-day loop walks.

*LENGTH:* APPROX 60 KM  
*TIME REQUIRED:* AT LEAST 5 DAYS  
*ACCESSIBILITY:* ON FOOT, BY MOUNTAIN-BIKE, E-BIKE OR ON HORSEBACK  
*DIFFICULTY:* EASY

## INFO:

Pro Loco Nediske Doline  
Valli del Natisone  
CELL. +39 349 3241168  
CELL. +39 339 8403196  
[www.nediskedoline.it](http://www.nediskedoline.it)



## LOWER FRIULI: FRESCOES IN COUNTRY CHURCHES

The route from Castions di Strada to Perteole is a little more than 50 km. But it takes at least two or three days to visit all the churches.

Access: country churches are opened only for specific occasions in the year. Therefore you must phone the parish office beforehand to arrange a visit.

### **Castions di Strada: Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie**

The church is on the road to the cemetery. It was probably once a parish church. The cycle of paintings dates from the 16th century and illustrates the life of St Blaise.

#### INFO:

Parish of Castions di Strada  
TEL. +39 0432 768054

### **Bicinicco: Church of Sant'Andrea in Gris and Church of San Marco in Cuccana**

The church of Sant'Andrea is one of the most beautiful in the region. It is frescoed throughout with well-preserved paintings dating back to 1531, especially a famous devil depicted as it captures souls and devours them. The cycle is part of the *Biblia pauperum* (Paupers' Bible) whose educational purpose was to help the people of the time to understand the Holy Scriptures. The frescoes in San Marco are also very interesting; the subjects include the sins and virtues set in contrast side by side.

#### INFO:

Parishes of Bicinicco  
TEL. +39 0432 993310 / 990336

### **Mereto di Capitolo (Santa Maria la Longa): Church of San Pietro**

It is situated close to the cemetery and its high bell-gable is easily spotted from a distance. The church walls are decorated with two 16th-century fresco cycles attributed to two different artists. The paintings depict the village community's Holy Helpers.

#### INFO:

Parish of Mereto di Capitolo  
TEL. +39 0432 928337

### **Strassoldo (Cervignano del Friuli): Church of Santa Maria in Vineis**

It is in the lovely village of Strassoldo, which is famous for its two castles belonging to the manorial family of the same name. The castles can be visited. The church has a 14th-century cycle of frescoes narrating the life of Mary.

#### INFO:

Pro Loco Strassoldo  
TEL. +39 0431 93298  
[info@prolocostrassoldo.it](mailto:info@prolocostrassoldo.it)

### **Malisana (Torviscosa): Church Santi Pietro e Paolo**

The little church is in the village cemetery, close to the ancient Via Annia. The central body of the building is 10th-century and the fragments of the oldest frescoes probably date from the same period. The main cycle depicts the Doctors of the Church and dates from the 14th century.

#### INFO:

Parish di Malisana  
TEL. +39 0431 92053



**San Martino (Terzo di Aquileia):  
Church of San Martino**

The church is almost entirely frescoed and is considered a little jewel. There are four cycles – attributed to local artists – which depict important passages from the Bible. The oldest cycle is 11th-century.

**INFO:**

Parish of Terzo of Aquileia  
TEL. +39 0431 32571

**Perteole (Ruda):  
Church of Santi Andrea e Anna**

Of very ancient origins, the church is in the village of Perteole, on a road that was once on the route which pilgrims from the north took to the Holy Land. It has two cycles of frescoes, one dating from the 16th century and an older one that is probably of the 13th century.

**INFO:**

Parish of Perteole  
TEL. +39 0481 597617



## SHORT ITINERARIES

### CERVICENTO AN OPEN-AIR BIBLE

Three Bible-themed routes (Ten fundamental moments in the history of salvation, the Way of Mary, the Way of Mercy) and three works (the Last Judgement, the Good Samaritan and the Transfiguration) made from mosaic, photoceramic and

paint, displayed on the walls of private homes and public buildings. The Holy Scripture becomes an itinerary of culture and spiritual reflection that highlights the architectural beauty of this little mountain village.

*TIME REQUIRED:* WHOLE ROUTE 2.5 HOURS (INDIVIDUAL ITINERARIES FROM 10' TO 40')

*ACCESSIBILITY:* ON FOOT, BY BICYCLE.

ACCESSIBLE FOR PERSONS WITH MOTOR DISABILITIES

*DIFFICULTY:* EASY / FOR EVERYONE



#### INFO:

Infopoint  
TEL. +39 388 3432047  
[www.unabibbiaacioloaperto.it](http://www.unabibbiaacioloaperto.it)  
[www.facebook.com/unabibbiaacioloaperto](https://www.facebook.com/unabibbiaacioloaperto)

## FIUME VENETO (PN):

### A CYCLE TOUR OF PIEVI AND LITTLE FRESCOED CHURCHES

A journey of discovery of small yet evocative places of worship and little artistic masterpieces in the municipality of Fiume Veneto. These places include the

church of S. Maria della Tavela, the first church of the local Christian community, which has three fresco cycles dating from the 11th to the 16th centuries. Continue with a visit to the Oratorio di San Girolamo and its beautiful paintings attributed to a youthful Giovanni Antonio de Sacchis, the painter also called

Il Pordenone. Lastly, the Pieve di S. Michele Arcangelo built in the 13th century over a pre-existing 7th/8th-century structure; the church has unusual frescoes of beasts of prey and birds.

*LENGTH:* 13.4 KM

*TIME REQUIRED:* APPROX 2 HOURS

*ACCESSIBILITY:* BY BICYCLE

*DIFFICULTY:* EASY / FOR EVERYONE

#### INFO:

Pro Loco Fiume in Festa  
CELL. +39 345 5796054  
[fiumeinfesta@gmail.com](mailto:fiumeinfesta@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/prolocofiume](https://www.facebook.com/prolocofiume)



## PORCIA (PN): PIEVI AND SPRING CHURCHES

A route among the outlying districts of Porcia to see some little artistic gems: from the Church of S. Vigilio, the most ancient and perhaps dating from Roman times, to the imposing Cathedral of S. Giorgio Martire which has a 16th-century wooden choir, one of the most exceptional works in the region. Lastly, the picturesque

Church of S. Michele Arcangelo is surrounded by lawns and has a stream running next to it; it reminds us of what spring-water locations looked like in the past.

*LENGTH:* 15 KM

*TIME REQUIRED:* APPROX 3 HOURS ON FOOT / APPROX 2 HOURS BY BICYCLE

*ACCESSIBILITY:* ON FOOT, BY BIKE.  
BARRIER-FREE ASPHALT ROAD WITH A

FEW SECTIONS OF CYCLE/PEDESTRIAN  
PATH

*DIFFICULTY:* EASY / FOR EVERYONE

### INFO:

Pro Loco Pro Porcia  
TEL. +39 0434 591008  
[info@proporcias.it](mailto:info@proporcias.it)  
[www.proporcias.it](http://www.proporcias.it)

## REANA DEL ROJALE (UD): VOTIVE CHURCHES OF ROJALE

A religious and artistic itinerary among the outlying districts of Reana del Rojale to see little churches rich in history. The Church of S. Agnese is mentioned in records as far back as the 13th century as a chapel in the village of Grandins, which mysteriously disappeared in the 17th century. The Church of S. Maria degli Angeli in Reana was founded in the mid-16th cen-

tury by the Confraternita della Madonna della Cintura (Brotherhood of the Madonna of the Holy Belt) and richly decorated in that period. Lastly, the little country church of S. Giacomo in Tavella, in Ravis, was probably built over the remains of an ancient Roman sacellum.

*LENGTH:* 25 KM

*TIME REQUIRED:* IT TAKES A FULL DAY

TO DO THE WHOLE LOOP ROUTE AND  
VISIT THE CHURCHES

*ACCESSIBILITY:* BY BICYCLE, CAR OR  
BUS. PROVINCIAL AND COUNCIL  
ROADS, CYCLE PATHS AND SOME DIRT  
TRACK SECTIONS

*DIFFICULTY:* EASY / FOR EVERYONE

### INFO:

Proloco del Rojale  
CELL. +39 349 4244611  
[www.prolocodelrojale.it](http://www.prolocodelrojale.it)

## SAN GIORGIO DELLA RICHINVELDA (PN): CYCLING AROUND THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES

A bicycle trip to discover major artworks in the local area and its history. The parish church of San Michele, in the district of Domagnis, has a beautiful altar-piece of St Valentine benedictory, one of the masterpieces of Pordenone-born painter Gasparo Narvesa. The little 13th-century country votive church of San Nicolò alla Richinvelda, which is famous for having

taken in the remains of Bertando di Saint Geniès, patriarch of Aquileia, after he was brutally murdered on 5th June 1350 on the plain of Richinvelda. The beautiful church of San Leonardo, in Provesano, with the biggest cycle of frescoes by the Carnia-born painter Gianfrancesco Dal Zotto, called Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo.

*LENGTH:* 17 KM

*TIME REQUIRED:* APPROX 3 HOURS, PLUS THE TIME NEEDED FOR THE VISITS

*ACCESSIBILITY:* BY BIKE.

YOU CAN ALSO DO THIS ITINERARY BY CAR OR BUS OR ON FOOT AND THE TIMES REQUIRED WILL BE DIFFERENT, OF COURSE

*DIFFICULTY:* EASY / FOR EVERYONE

### INFO:

Proloco San Giorgio della Richinvelda  
CELL. +39 348 6443824  
[www.prolocorichinvelda.it](http://www.prolocorichinvelda.it)



## ZOPPOLA (PN): THE CARDINALS' WAY

An unusual itinerary centred on two cardinals, sons of the little municipality of Zoppola: Antonio Panciera and Celso Costantini.

The route takes in the most important places associated with them, such as the study of Cardinal Panciera, preserved in the castle of Zoppola. The study's

ceiling has a splendid fresco by Pomponio Amalteo. In Castions you can visit the birthplace of Cardinale Celso Costantini; today the house is the Civic Art Gallery and has many of the cardinal's personal possessions.

*TIME:* APPROX 2 HOURS

*ACCESSIBILITY:* BY BICYCLE

*DIFFICULTY:* EASY / FOR EVERYONE

### INFO:

Zoppola Town Hall  
TEL. + 39 0434 97747  
[biblioteca@comune.zoppola.pn.it](mailto:biblioteca@comune.zoppola.pn.it);  
[info@prolocozoppola.it](mailto:info@prolocozoppola.it)



**SHRINES**

# GRADO SANTUARIO DI BARBANA



The Shrine of Barbana is situated on a **tiny island in the lagoon of Grado** and is home to a **community of Franciscan Friars Minor**.

Tradition has it that the shrine dates back to 482 A.D. when an image of the Holy Virgin was found on the island after a raging storm; this prompted the construction of the first church. The present shrine was built from 1911 to 1924 in the Romanesque Revival style. Inside the shrine is a fine wooden statue of

the Holy Virgin and numerous ex-votos.

A regular ferry service links the isle of Barbana to Grado, departing from the Canale della Schiusa; the journey takes about 20 minutes.

The island has a little harbour and can also be reached by private boat.

#### INFO:

Santuario Madonna di Barbana  
TEL: +39 0431 80453



## PREPOTTO: SANTUARIO DELLA BEATA VERGINE DI CASTELMONTE



The very ancient Marian Shrine of Castelmonte, not far from Cividale del Friuli, was already in the 6th century one of the most important places of pilgrimage in the vast Patriarchate of Aquileia. In later centuries it grew to become a fortified village. The statue of the Madonna and Child is the heart of the shrine.

The statue's characteristic dark colouring is still a mystery. It is undoubtedly part of the tradition of Black Madonnas found in many European shrines. Testifying to the people's devoutness, the shrine has many fine quality ex-votos. Overnight stays are possible, contact the Shrine.

### INFO:

Santuario Beata Vergine di Castelmonte  
TEL. +39 0432 731094/701267  
[info@santuariocastelmonte.it](mailto:info@santuariocastelmonte.it)  
[www.santuariocastelmonte.it](http://www.santuariocastelmonte.it)

## GEMONA DEL FRIULI: SANTUARIO DI SANT'ANTONIO



The Shrine's origins are closely bound to the saint's life. It is historically proven that St Anthony came to Gemona del

Friuli in 1227. He stayed for a few months, preaching and performing miracles. He also had a chapel built in honour of the Holy Virgin; the ruins of the chapel can still be seen inside the shrine. It was indeed here in Gemona that the first church in the world dedicated to St Anthony was consecrated in

1248. The church was enlarged, remodelled and enriched with works of art over the centuries, then, alas, it was destroyed in the 1976 earthquake.

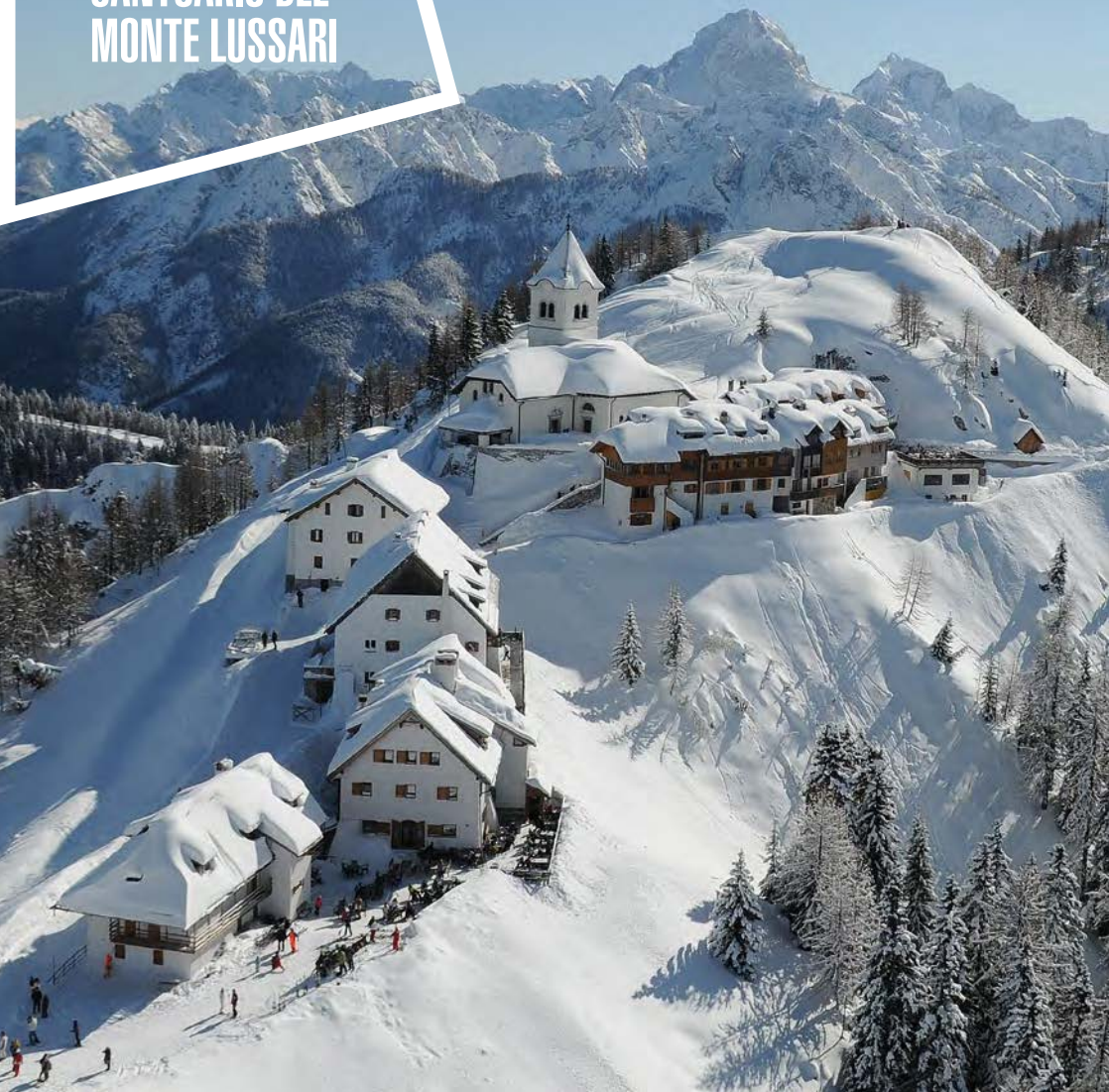
Today a modern shrine stands on the same spot.

### INFO:

Santuario di Sant'Antonio a Gemona  
TEL. + 39 0432 981113  
[info@santantonioigemona.it](mailto:info@santantonioigemona.it)  
[www.santantonioigemona.it](http://www.santantonioigemona.it)



## TARVISIO: SANTUARIO DEL MONTE LUSSARI



According to ancient tradition, the shrine originated in 1360. Following a series of miraculous events a chapel was built here. There is no longer any trace of the original chapel, the present shrine is the result of the rebuilding and enlarg-

ing of a 16th-century building. The shrine may be reached on foot along the evocative Sentiero del Pellegrino (Pilgrim's Path) that winds through the woods of the Tarvisio forest, or via the cableway that starts from Camporosso. Overnight

stays are possible, contact the Shrine.

#### INFO:

Parish of Camporosso  
TEL. +39 0428 63057

# ALL THE SHRINES OF FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

## Gorizia

- Santuario Maria Santissima Rosa Mistica (**Cormons**)
  - Santuario Madonna di Barbana (**Grado**)
  - Santuario Santa Maria delle Grazie (**Grado**)
  - Santuario Monte Santo (**Gorizia**)
  - Santuario Beata Vergine Marcelliana (**Monfalcone**)
  - Santuario S. Maria del Preval (**Mossa**)
  - Santuario San Canzian d'Isonzo (**S. Canzian d'Isonzo**)
- 

## Pordenone

- Santuario Madonna del Monte (**Aviano**)
- Santuario S. Daniele di Monte (**Barcis**)
- Santuario San Daniele (**Castelnuovo del Friuli**)
- Santuario Madonna del Zucco (**Castelnuovo del Friuli**)
- Preziosissimo Sangue di Clauzetto (**Clauzetto**)
- Santuario Madonna delle Grazie (**Cordovado**)

- Santuario Madonna della Strada (**Fanna**)
- Santuario Madonna della Strangada (**Frisanco**)
- Santuario Beata Vergine della Salute Frisanco (**Pordenone**)
- Santuario dell'Immacolata (**Maniago**)
- Santuario San Bartolomeo (**Meduno**)
- Santuario Santa Maria Assunta (**Montereale Valcellina**)
- Santuario SS. Trinità (**Polcenigo**)
- Santuario Santissima Maria (**Porcia**)
- Santuario Beata Maria Vergine delle Grazie (**Pordenone**)
- Santuario Santa Maria degli Angeli (**Pordenone**)
- Santuario SS. Trinità (**Pordenone**)
- Santuario Beata Vergine dei Battuti (**Prata**)
- Santuario Madonna di Rosa (**San Vito al Tagliamento**)
- Santuario Santa Maria dei Battuti (**San Vito al Tagliamento**)

- Santuario S. Petronilla (**San Vito al Tagliamento**)
  - Santuario Santa Maria in Sylvis (**Sesto al Reghena**)
  - Santuario S. Maria della Pietà (**Sacile**)
  - Santuario S. Liberale (**Sacile**)
  - Santuario Beata Vergine dell'Ancona (**Spilimbergo**)
  - Santuario Madonna di Zancan (**Travesio**)
  - Santuario SS. Corpo di Cristo (**Valvasone**)
  - Santuario Beata Vergine delle Grazie (**Valvasone**)
- 

## Trieste

- Santuario Beata Vergine Assunta (**Monrupino**)
- Santuario Madonna della Salute (**Trieste**)
- Santuario Madonna della Salvia (**Trieste**)
- Santuario S. Maria di Grignano (**Trieste**)
- Santuario Nazionale a Maria Madre e Regina (**Trieste**)
- Santuario Santa Maria Maggiore (**Trieste**)
- Santuario Madonna in Siaris (**San Dorligo della Valle**)

- Santuario S. Giuseppe  
(*San Dorligo della Valle*)

## **Udine**

- Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta (*Aquileia*)
- Capella della Madonna de Sesule (*Attimis*)
- Santuario della Beata Vergine di Screncis (*Bertiolo*)
- Santuario Madonna della Neve (*Buia*)
- Santuario S. Maria ad Melotum (*Buia*)
- Santuario della Madonna del Monte (*Cividale del Friuli*)
- Santuario Beata Benvenuta Boiani in S. Domenico (*Cividale del Friuli*)
- Santuario Madonna dell'Aiuto (*Corno di Rosazzo*)
- Santuario Auxilium Cristianorum (*Forgaria nel Friuli*)
- Santuario S. Antonio di Padova (*Gemona del Friuli*)
- Santuario S. Maria del Fossale (*Gemona del Friuli*)
- Santuario della Madonna delle Grazie (*Latisana*)

- Santuario Madonna di Trava (*Lauco*)
- Santuario S. Maria di Comercio (*Majano*)
- Santuario Madonna delle Pianelle (*Nimis*)
- Santuario Madonna di Loreto (*Ovaro*)
- Santuario Madonna di Tavie (*Pagnacco*)
- Santuario Madonna di Muris (*Pavia di Udine*)
- Santuario Cristo di Timau (*Paluzza*)
- Santuario Madonna del Sasso (*Paularo*)
- Santuario Santa Maria delle Grazie (*Pontebba*)
- Santuario di Santa Maria Maggiore (*Pontebba*)
- Santuario della Madonna di Castel Monte (*Prepotto*)
- Santuario Madonna di Raveo (*Raveo*)
- Santuario Madonna del Carmine (*Reana del Rojale*)
- Santuario Madonna di Strada (*San Daniele del Friuli*)
- Santuario Madonna di Tavie (*San Giovanni al Natisone*)

- Santuario S. Osvaldo (*Sauris*)
- Santuario SS. Trinità (*Taipana*)
- Santuario Maria Santissima del Sabato (*Tarcento*)
- Santuario Santa Maria del Giglio (*Tarcento*)
- Santuario Madonna del Lussari (*Tarvisio*)
- Santuario Maria Missionaria (*Tricesimo*)
- Santuario Madonna delle Grazie (*Udine*)
- Santuario Beata Vergine del Carmine (*Udine*)
- Santuario S. Maria Annunziata (*Udine*)
- Santuario S. Lucia (*Udine*)
- Santuario Madonna del Ponte (*Villa Santina*)
- Santuario Madonna del Sasso (*Villa Santina*)



# **ABBEYS AND MONASTERIES**

## SESTO AL REGHENA: BENEDICTINE ABBAY OF SANTA MARIA IN SYLVIS



Founded in the first half of the 8th century, the Benedictine Abbey of St Mary in Sylvis was destroyed by the Hungarians in 889. It was rebuilt, fortified, with the look of a mediaeval castle and a defence system of towers and moats. Remains of the ancient abbey include the entrance tower, which dates back to the late 15th century, the basilica,

the abbot's residence (now the town hall), the abbatial chancery and the rectory.

The basilica, built to a Romanesque-Byzantine plan (three naves, underground crypt and a raised presbytery), is decorated with a cycle of frescoes by the school of Giotto (1316-1320). In the crypt is the urn of St Anastasia, a magnificent monument

from the Longobard period; a 15th-century sandstone Pietà, attributed to a German master. The abbey welcomes individuals and small groups for spiritual meetings.

### INFO:

Abbazia Benedettina Santa Maria in Sylvis  
TEL. +39 0434 699014  
[abbaziasestopn@libero.it](mailto:abbaziasestopn@libero.it)  
[www.abbaziasestoalregghena.it](http://www.abbaziasestoalregghena.it)

## MANZANO: ROSAZZO ABBEY



The history of this ancient abbey is a long and complex. It has hosted several different religious orders over the centuries and was even turned into a fortified stronghold in the Middle Ages.

The abbey church was built in the Romanesque style in approximately the year 1000; there are traces of the various renovations carried out over time, with architectural elements from different periods. The name Rosazzo derives from the wild roses which flourish hereabouts. The abbey also played an important role over the centuries in the survival

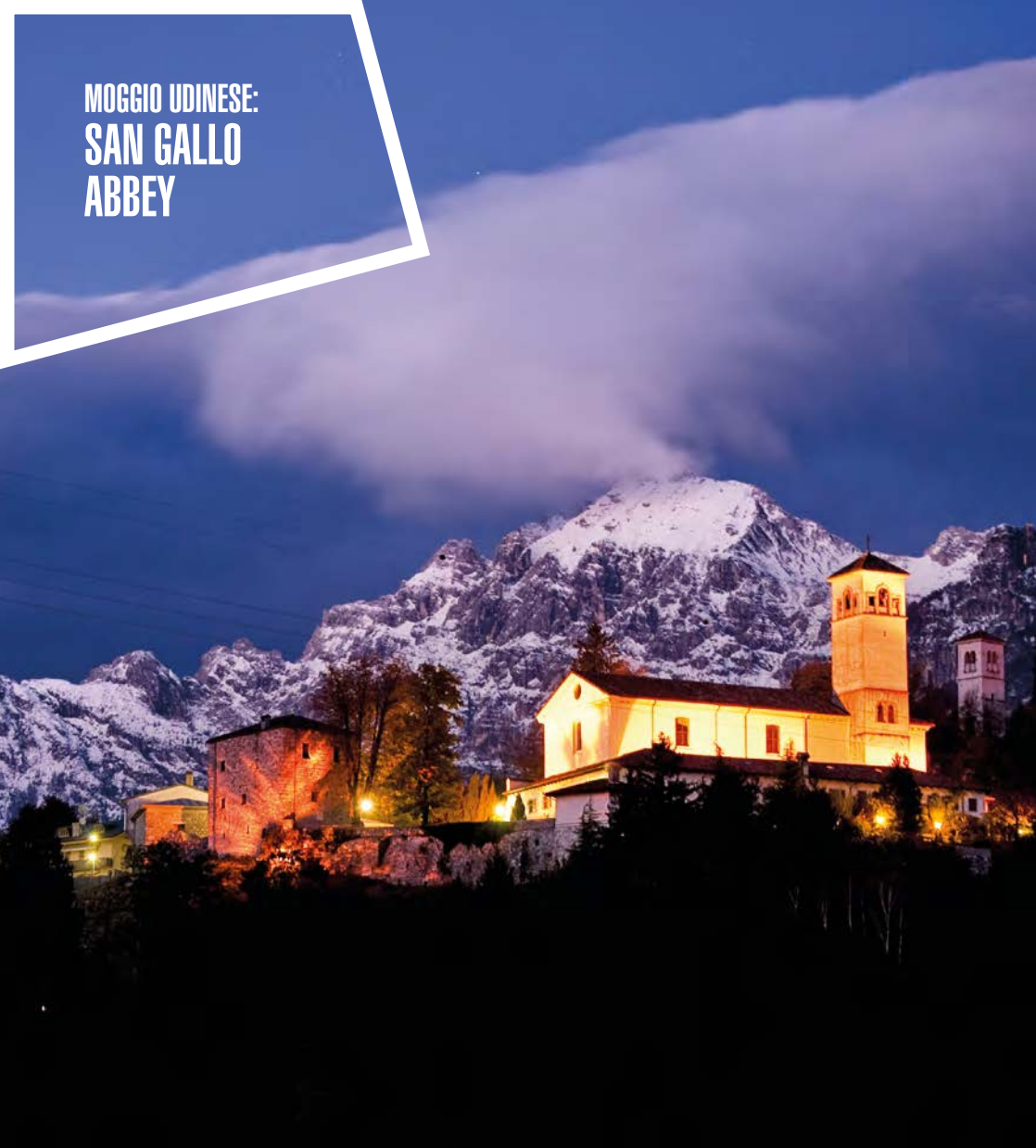
of a number of native grape varieties. It still has its historical cellar, which dates back to the 13th century and is the oldest cellar of Friuli Venezia Giulia. Today the abbey is the venue for cultural events and exhibitions and it welcomes individuals and small groups for spiritual meetings. Overnight stays are possible, contact the abbey.

#### INFO:

Rosazzo Abbey  
TEL. +39 0432 759091  
[www.abbaziadirosazzo.it](http://www.abbaziadirosazzo.it)



MOGGIO UDINESE:  
**SAN GALLO  
ABBEY**



The Benedictine Abbey of San Gallo was founded in 1085 and was a very important monastery in the Middle Ages. Today it is an enclosed convent of the Poor Clares. The present abbey church was built in 1761. It has a single-nave, rectangular hall

and still has many fine works of art including an 18th-century organ and some beautiful wooden sculptures, especially an enormous painted walnut Christ dated 1466. Be sure to see the elegant Benedictine cloister and the mediaeval tower, which is now

used for exhibitions. The abbey welcomes individuals and small groups for spiritual meetings.

**INFO:**

San Gallo Abbey  
TEL. +39 0432 51510

## POFFABRO (FRISANCO): SANTA MARIA ANNUNCIATA BENEDICTINE MONASTERY

This convent was founded very recently (1998) in a large stone house built in the style characteristic of Poffabro, which is on the list of Italy's Prettiest Villages. The tiny religious community is currently composed of eight re-

ligious sisters who have taken permanent, solemn vows; they live active lives, including making herb teas, jams and medicinal herb infusions. The convent welcomes individuals and small groups for spiritual meetings.

### INFO:

Benedictine Convent  
of Santa Maria Annunciata  
TEL. +39 0427 78022  
assieme@monachedipoffabro.it  
info@monachedipoffabro.it

## PROSECCO (TRIESTE): SAN CIPRIANO BENEDICTINE MONASTERY

The Convent of San Cipriano in Prosecco has a community of nuns who moved there in 2012 from the convent of the same name on the Colle di San Giusto (St Just's Hill). The building is made almost entirely of re-

cycled materials and includes a chapterhouse, a small chapel for meditation, a refectory, and a library which currently has more than 10,000 books. The convent welcomes individuals and small groups for spiritual meetings.

### INFO:

Convent of San Cipriano  
TEL. +39 040 630148

## MONTEGNACCO (CASSACCO): CARMELO DI SAN GESÙ DI NAZARETH MONASTERY

The convent is on the hills of the terminal moraine of the River Tagliamento, along the old road that led over the Alps. Founded in 1965 by a native-born nun of Friuli, the convent's community

leads a simple life in the spirit of the House of Nazareth. The nuns make communion wafers for the whole diocese. The convent welcomes individuals and small groups for spiritual meetings.

### INFO:

Convent of Montegnacco  
TEL. +39 0432 851437  
carmelitane.montegnacco@alice.it

# CELEBRATIONS, PASSION PLAYS AND RE-ENACTMENTS

- **S. Messa dello Spadone** - Cividale del Friuli (UD) - 6 January: an evocative special Mass with costumed players: the deacon, wearing a helmet with red and white plumes (the municipality's official colours) carries out a triple blessing using patriarch Marquando's Spadone, a mid-15th-century sword.
- **Messa del Tallero** - Gemona del Friuli (UD) - 6 January: three processions - with participants in mediaeval costumes - meet under the town hall loggia before proceeding to the Duomo, where the capitano del popolo (today the mayor) offers the thaler to the officiant as a sign of temporal power's submission to spiritual power. The tradition of this kind of religious theatre dates back to the 19th century.
- **Epifania Tarcentina** - Tarcento - 6 January : a procession in mediaeval costume proceeds from the centre of Tarcento to the ruins of Coia Castle, where the traditional Pignarul (bonfire) is lit to bring good luck to the new year.
- **Epiphany firework displays** - various localities - 5-6 January: bonfires in all the villages around the region, illuminating the landscape with a magical glow to banish bad memories of the past year and bring good luck to the new one.
- **Rappresentazione del Venerdì Santo** - Erto (PN): from the mid-17th century Erto holds a Good Friday costume passion play of the Passion of Christ.
- **Sacra Rappresentazione del Venerdì Santo** - Cicconicco di Fagagna (UD): costume passion play held on Good Friday in the hills around the village of Cicconicco.
- **Via Crucis Vivente del Venerdì Santo** - Claut (PN): Way of the Cross costume procession through the village streets accompanied by the traditional "Batacos" which are struck at each passing hour.
- **Paschalia** - various regional localities - Lent and Easter: a season of choral church music of every period and style on Lenten and Easter themes. Held each year in various churches in the region.
- **Bacio delle Croci** - Zuglio (UD) - Ascension Sunday: in the pieve of San Pietro in Zuglio all the silver crosses from churches in the valleys of Carnia are brought to bow to the cross in the main parish church as a symbol of brotherhood and submission to the church that was the heart of early Christianity in Carnia.
- **Rogazioni di San Floriano** - Illegio (UD) - first days in May: a pilgrimage on ancient paths to commemorate the day of the martyrdom of St Florian.
- **Festa di San Vito** - Marano Lagunare (UD) - third Sunday in June: procession of decorated motor boats, with the biggest fishing boats, to the centre of the lagoon. The boats form a circle around one which carries the statue of St Vitus, followed by the blessing of the sea and the boats.
- **Pilgrimage to Maria Luggau** (Austria) - from Forni Avoltri. A traditional pilgrimage on foot that the community of Forni Avoltri undertakes annually on the last Saturday of June to seek the protection of the Madonna of Luggau.
- **Perdon di Barbana** - Grado (UD) - first Sunday in July: votive procession of boats from Grado to Barbana.
- **Martyr Saints Hermagoras and Fortunatus** - Aquileia (UD) - 12 July: Mass in the patriarchal basilica of Aquileia, concelebrated by the bishops of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Slovenia and Austria.
- **Festa della Beata Vergine della Neve** - Precentico (UD) - 5 August : solemn procession of the wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin of the Snow, which is transported on the river from the centre of the village to the little church of the Beata Vergine della Neve in Titiano.
- **Šmarna Miša** - Prato di Resia (UD) - 15 August: this is the most important religious celebration in the Resia valley. It is held around the pieve (parish church with baptism) of Santa Maria Assunta. The day starts with a High Mass in honour of the Assumption of Mary then continues with a procession behind a precious 16th-century wooden statue of the Virgin and Child.
- **Perdon di Teor** - Teor (UD) - beginning of September : Mass followed by a procession through the village streets to celebrate the devotedness to the Virgin of the Holy Belt.



# NATIVITY SCENES

• **Fiera dei Santi** - Rivignano (UD) - end of October/early November: the Saints' Fair is one of the region's oldest festivals; it started because here in the past sadness and silence were replaced by a great celebration. Dancing, music and a big market that fills the village streets, plus the keenly-awaited Festival mondiale della canzone funebre (world festival of funeral songs).

• **Traditional pageant of St Nicholas and the Krampus** - Tarvisio and environs - 5 December: a tradition of Tarvisio and other places in the surrounding area (in Pontebba they're called Spitz Parkli) dating back to the 16th century. The bishop - who usually brings presents for the children - is contrasted by four krampus or devils in a portrayal of good and evil that creates a feeling of mystery.

• **Messa dello Spadone** - Aquileia - 24 December: a Mass held on Christmas Night in the basilica of S. Maria Assunta in Aquileia, during which the deacon wears part of a suit of mediaeval armour and blesses the four cardinal points in remembrance of the ancient patriarchate's entire territory.

• **Nativitas** - various places in FVG - November/December: choir festival of traditional Christmas songs, held every year from Advent and throughout December in the region's churches and theatres.

**Grado (GO)** - mid-December to mid-January: festival of nativity scenes on the streets of the town.

**Poffabbro (PN)** - mid-December to mid-January: "Presepe tra i presepi" - display of nativity scenes on the streets, in courtyards, at windows and on balconies in one of Italy's Loveliest Villages.

**Polcenigo (PN)** - mid-December to mid-January: floating nativity scene on the water of the Gorgazzo river head.

**Ravascletto (UD)** - mid-December to mid-January: nativity scene centred around the ancient Cramars, the street traders of Carnia who travelled all over Europe.

**Villa Manin in Codroipo (UD)** - beginning of December to mid-January: "Rassegna dell'arte presepiale in Friuli Venezia Giulia". More than 100 nativity scenes made of various materials.

**Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD)** - mid-December to mid-January: giant nativity scene carved in sand.

**Sesto al Reghena (PN)** - 24 -26 December (once every two years): a "living" nativity scene with 250 participants and 25 tableaux.

**Trieste (TS)** - during the Christmas period: "Il presepio parlante" a "talking nativity scene", a re-enactment of the Nativity lasting about 15 minutes and including scene changes, plays of light and storytelling.

**Cividale del Friuli (UD)** - open throughout the year: historical nativity scene belonging to the Ursulines, with mid-19th-century wax-and-tow figures

**Sutrio (UD)** - open throughout the year: Teno nativity scene - highly detailed reconstruction of the village of Sutrio and of Carnia.

**Trieste (TS)** - open throughout the year: Museo del Presepio - a museum with some 150 nativity scenes of different sizes and materials.

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## HOW TO GET HERE

### BY CAR

Motorways

A4 Torino - Trieste

A23 Palmanova - Udine - Tarvisio

A28 Portogruaro - Conegliano

### BY AIR

Trieste Regional Airport

40 km da Trieste e Udine

15 km da Gorizia

80 km da Pordenone

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

### BY TRAIN

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

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