



# Gemona del Friuli

THE SYMBOL OF REBIRTH

The pre-Roman town was mentioned for the first time by Paolo Diacono in the Historia Longobardorum, being one of the castles that were fortified by the Lombards against the invading Avars. It became a "free community" with its own statutes already at the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Under the Patriarchate of Aquileia Gemona thrived with trade, handicraft and banking activities. In fact, the privilege of the Niederlech, the main source of wealth, which granted Gemona the right to charge a duty to those who passed

through its roads, dates back to 1280. Fallen in 1420 under the Venetian rule, in the following centuries it went through hard times. Sadly famous in Italy and in the world as the capital of the 1976 earthquake, Gemona is now the symbol of Friuli's rebirth. A walk in the heart of Gemona is the best way of discovering many fascinating corners where medieval architecture is combined with modern experiments enhancing one another.

A walk in Gemona  
We suggest that you start the walk entering from **Porta Udine**, next to the cathedral. In this way you will immediately enter the medieval town with **Palazzo Gurisatti** (15<sup>th</sup> cent.), which houses the Cineteca del Friuli (Friuli's Film Library). In **via Bini**, an old trade street, it is possible to see the ancient medieval houses that still feature frescoes, but also the houses with elegant architectural lines designed by **Raimondo d'Aronco** from Gemona, an important representative of the European architecture of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Going on you will find **Palazzo Etti** and then the sixteenth-century **Palazzo Boton**, the Town Hall. Here starts the part of town where you will be surrounded by a mixture of modern architecture combined with medieval features discovering other places, among which the one by architect **Luciano Gemin** according to an idea by **Carlo Scarpa** and the beautiful postmodern building with a terraced loggia and a characteristic clock. Nearby, the staircase of the **former Church**

# Artegna and Montenas

CASTLES AND "ROCCOLI"

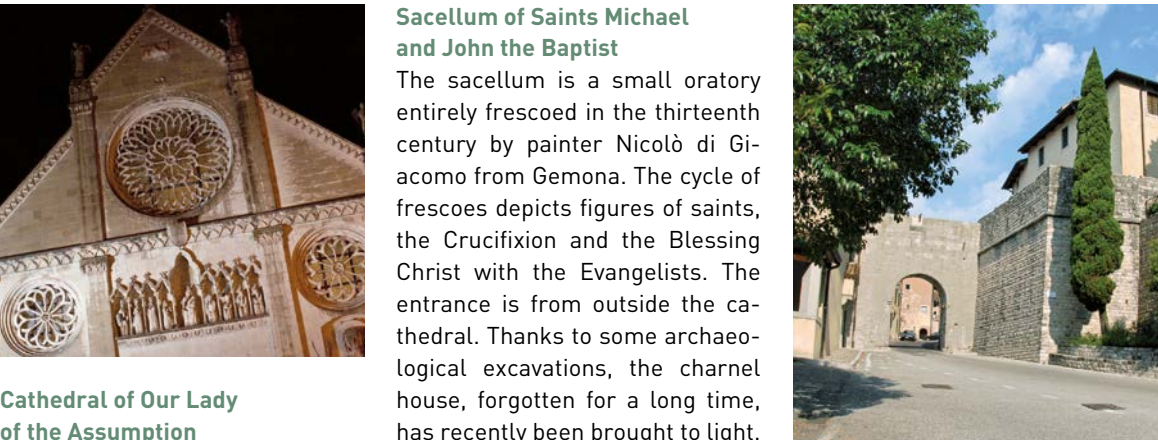
Artegna was inhabited already in the prehistoric and Roman ages but its small fort was mentioned for the first time by Paolo Diacono only around the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Walking along the path on the top of the **San Martino hill**, which dominates the town centre, it is possible to see the remains of the ancient castle and an early medieval cistern covered in opus signinum.

Next to the cistern is the **Savorgnan Castle**, the bell tower, the **Church of Our Lady of the Nativity** (19<sup>th</sup> century) and **St. Martin's church**, after which the hill is named. From the latter you will enjoy a beautiful view over the hill of Osoppo and the surroundings.

**Montenas** is of ancient origin; evidence thereof is provided by the **castle of Ravistagno**, the remains of which are still visible on the rocky spur sheer above the Orvenco stream, easily reachable from **St. George's church**. From the castle one can admire the whole plain of the Tagliamento river. The location is famous for the many **roccoli**, circular structures built by man with particular tree woods, which in the past were used for bird catching (today forbidden), and perfectly preserved in memory of a tradition deeply rooted in the territory. It is possible to admire them all year round whereas, during the event "Andar per Roccoli", it will be pleasant to visit them and taste typical dishes. For those who love to walk in the wood in Montenas there are many marked paths that can be travelled over all year round and are suitable for children as well.



## Gemona del Friuli - the symbol of rebirth



**Sacellum of Saints Michael and John the Baptist**  
The sacellum is a small oratory entirely frescoed in the thirteenth century by painter Nicolo di Giacomo from Gemona. The cycle of frescoes depicts figures of saints, the Crucifixion and the Blessing Christ with the Evangelists. The entrance is from outside the cathedral. Thanks to some archaeological excavations, the charnel house, forgotten for a long time, has recently been brought to light.

**Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption**  
The current church was built in 1290 over another older building. The facade, a wonderful example of combination between the Romanesque and Gothic styles, was rearranged between 1820 and 1829, for this reason today it features Neoclassical elements that harmonize the assembly. On the right side the huge statue of Saint Christopher and the gallery made up of nine statues representing the Epiphany do not go unnoticed. On top of everything, the magnificent central rose-window made by the architect under the direction of Master Buceta. The interior of the cathedral is rich in works of art, such as the fourteenth-century altarpiece, of golden wood painted with scenes of the Old and New Testament, and the 15th-century wooden Crucifix, found under the debris and become evidence of that far but forgotten 6th May 1976. Evidence of the European atmosphere of the town in the Middle Ages is provided by some works of artists from Salzburg and Switzerland.

**The Town Hall**  
It is also called **Palazzo Boton**, from the nickname given to architect Bartolomeo de Capriolis, and was built in 1502 using the stones of the ruins of the castle. Characterised by three large arcades, over the centuries it was subjected to various changes. Some of the rare finds from the Roman age (2<sup>nd</sup> cent.) of the Gemona area are preserved in the loggia.

## Venzone

A CASKET FULL OF HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

**A medieval town acknowledged by the European community as an ideal village of Italy where it is nice to live. The access gate to the Julian Pre-Alps regional park.**

The first documented urban nucleus of Venzone dates back to the Carolingian rule (8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> cent.). Over the centuries the town will become part of the Patriarchate of Aquileia, will fall under the rule of the republic of Venice and will become part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1866 only. Venzone is now the only example of medieval walled citadel in Friuli; the double circle of walls, which today still encloses the town, was commissioned in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Gizio di Mels to protect the town.



## Gemona del Friuli - the symbol of rebirth



**The Castle of Gemona**  
From the castle hill you will enjoy a magnificent open view from the Sant'Agnese saddle as far as beyond the Tagliamento. It is here that very recent archaeological excavations have brought to light traces of life in the castle built around the year 1000 over previous structures dating back to the Lombard and Roman ages.

**St. Anthony's Sanctuary**  
The Sanctuary is considered the first in the world to be dedicated to the Saint from Padua. According to tradition it was built by St. Anthony as a sacellum dedicated to Our Lady of Graces. Attached to the Sanctuary is also the friary of the Friars Minor. The sanctuary was rebuilt with modern lines and inside it preserves the ruins of the thirteenth-century small church built by the Saint himself in honour of the Virgin. Important are the works by artist Arrigo Poz from Udine as well as the remains of the Saint's cell, the precious collection of ex votos and the "R. Raffaelli" Museum with seventeenth-century paintings.



## Venzone, a casket full of history and traditions

**Cathedral of St. Andrew the Apostle**  
Risen on pre-existing sites of worship, the building is a beautiful example of Romanesque-Gothic architecture. The entrance portal is embellished by the bas-relief depicting the Crucifixion (mid 14<sup>th</sup> cent.). Inside interesting 14<sup>th</sup>-century frescoes such as the "Consacrazione del Duomo" [Consecration of the Cathedral] and altarpieces by Franco Masini, Melchior Widmar and Andrea Petrolio from Venzone. The sacristy houses the cathedral museum containing wooden works of the Tolmezzo School of Domenico da Tolmezzo (15<sup>th</sup> cent.), sacred paraments (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> cent.), codices and registers of the Parish church (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> cent.), ornaments, furnishings, canvases and altarpieces. The group of the sixteenth-century wooden Lamentation of Christ has been arranged next to the sacristy, while the opposite chapel features the wooden sculpture of the Cathedral and altarpieces by Franco Masini, made in 1996 from a 350-year-old trunk of cedar of Lebanon. Venzone is the only example in the region of integral use of the reconstruction method called "anastylosis": an innovative method "thought, designed and applied for the first time to a whole medieval town" right here in Venzone after the 1974 earthquake and that ever since has been copied for the reconstruction of historical buildings damaged by catastrophic events.

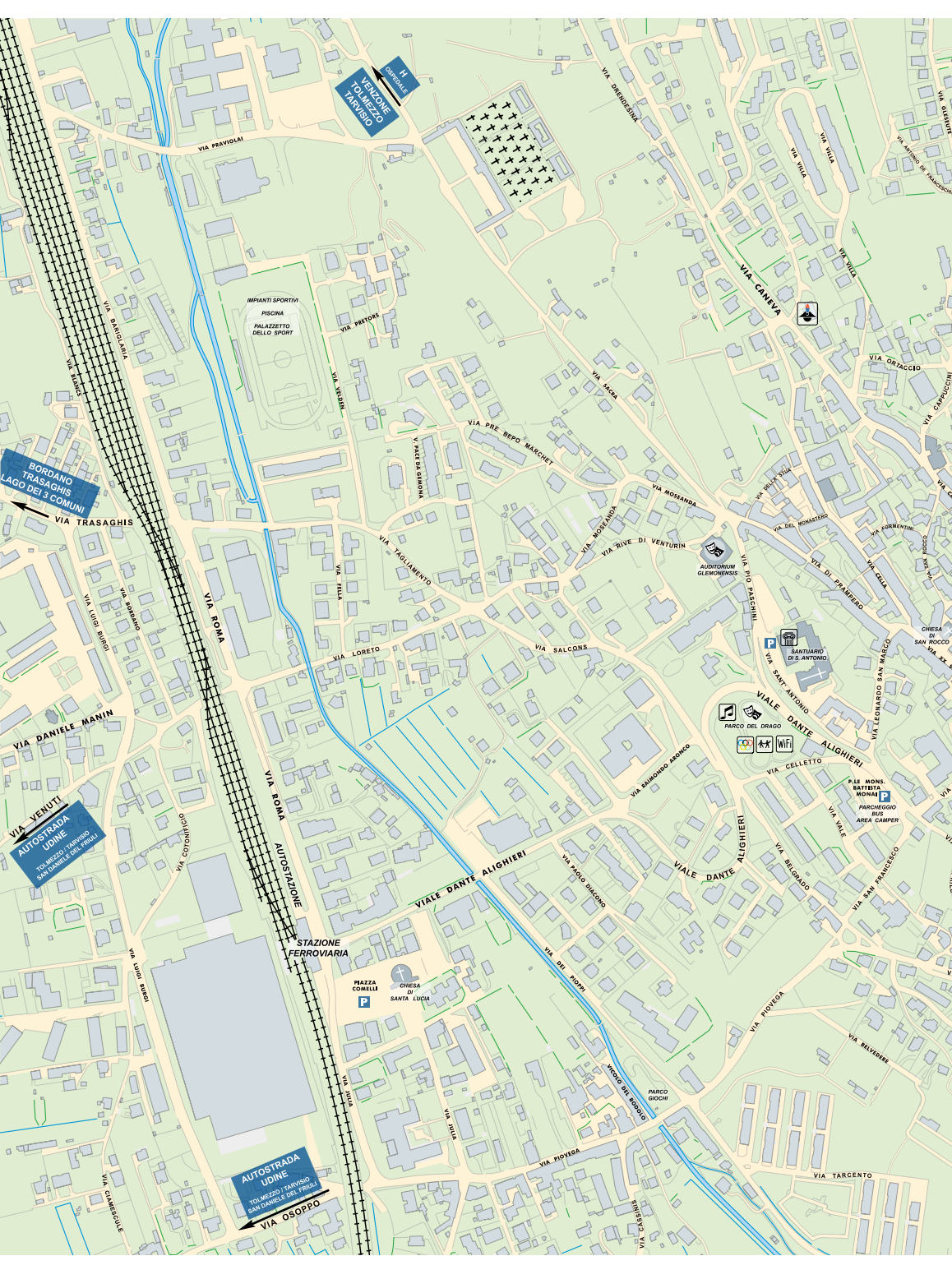
**Cemetery crypt of S. Michele**  
The crypt next to the Cathedral preserves mummies belonging to a period between the 14th and the 19th centuries. The finding of the oldest one, the Hunchbacked mummy, occurred during the cathedral enlargement in 1647. The mummies are the result of a mummification process that is not the result of human intervention but of a natural phenomenon.



## The area of Gemona del Friuli and its surroundings



## Map of the centre of Gemona del Friuli

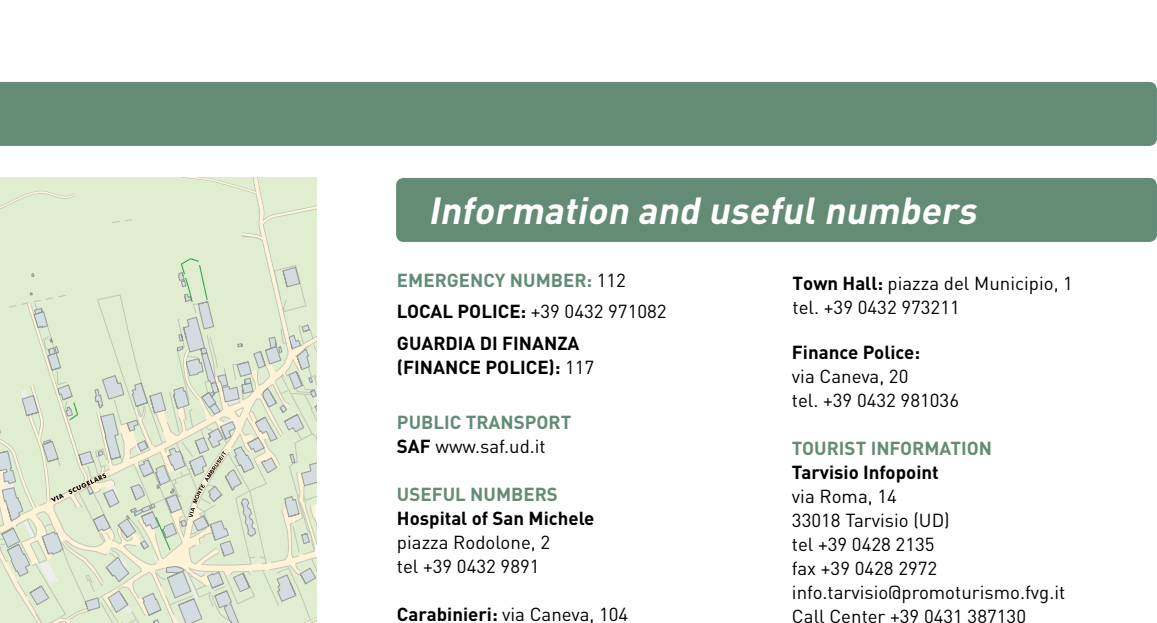


# The museums of Gemona del Friuli

A LAND RICH IN CULTURE

**MUSEUM OF THE PARISH CHURCH TREASURE OF THE CATHEDRAL**  
The Treasure of the cathedral comprises some of the finest realizations of Friuli's fifteenth-century goldsmith's art, together with other works of Baroque, Neoclassical and modern style. The museum also preserves a precious collection of liturgical paraments, embroidery and lace. An important section of the museum is dedicated to the 13<sup>th</sup>-century and 14<sup>th</sup>-century codices of the Padua-Bologna school, adorned with wonderful miniatures.

**"RENATO RAFFAELLI" MUSEUM**  
The collection comprises works by painters from Gemona, Friuli and Veneto, with some presences of artists from Central and Northern Italy. Many canvases are by Melchior Widmar, a Swiss painter active in Gemona in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Among the sculpture works, remarkable is the fifteenth-century Madonna Bella, of carved, painted and gilded wood, of the Salzburg school.



**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION "1976 fragments of memory"**  
The photographic exhibition allows visitors to follow an "emotional path", discovering the Gemona of the past, with photographic images of the period, together with photos of the most significant sites of the town immediately after the earthquake and images of Gemona rebuilt; in this way it is also possible to compare and examine the various types and methods of reconstruction.



## Moggio Udinese

ART AND NATURE

A location situated along the **Fella river**, it provides visitors with an atmosphere of other times with the ancient castle tower, the Abbey and the palaces of **Moggio di Sotto**. We suggest a walk to discover this corner of Friuli starting from **Moggio Alto**, where you will find the abbey complex that accommodates the cloistered Sacramental Clarisse nuns. **St. Gall's abbey church** features relevant works of art, such as the 18<sup>th</sup>-century organ by Nachhini, the largest in Friuli, 19<sup>th</sup>-century paintings, a rich chandelier of wrought-iron and carved wood covered with gold leaf (made up of 1500 dismantable pieces), a large painted walnut Crucified Christ of 1466 and the baptistry with the fresco depicting the parable of the Virgins. Overlooking the large square of the abbey is the **Medieval Tower** or Torre delle Pri- gioni (Prison Tower), which has been transformed into an exhibition room. Proceed towards **Moggio Basso** where you will see the **Bertina**, a stone column of 1653 with the writing "supplicio di malfattori" (punishment of evildoers): it is the evidence of the judicial power exerted by the abbey over the domain of Moggio. Along the route you will see the 16<sup>th</sup>-century **Rodolfi** and **De-ganutti** houses and the 18<sup>th</sup>-century **Town Hall**. From here we will reach the **Borgo Lussio**, a 18<sup>th</sup>-century manufacture of Carnia's entrepreneur. Precious are the small chapels, the aedicules, the icons, the crucifixes made by the valley dwellers along the roads and the mountain paths, which lead to the Aupa Valley. Along the **Aupa Valley**, near the hamlet of **Pradis**, you will find the mouth of the **Alba valley**; it is located in a protected area of great natural interest, situated in the strip of transition between the Alps and Pre-Alps and between the Carnic and Julian Alps. The harsh relief and the deep valleys create a mosaic of environments that are reflected in the flora and in the fauna. An unspoiled and wild territory, rich in crystal-clear waters, rocky ridges, impenetrable forests, but also in traces left by man and by his activities. A real natural gem, completely uninhabited and silent, crossed by many paths. The muletracks, which cross the **Alba Valley Nature Reserve**, lead to high-altitude environments with wonderful views over the Carnic and Julian Alps and the Fella Valley; interesting cultural elements are provided by the remains of the military presence during the First World War, such as high-altitude shelters, defence structures, tunnel emplacements and a military hospital.



## Bordano and Trasaghis

A LAKE AND MANY BUTTERFLIES

The territories of **Bordano**, **Trasaghis** and **Cavazzo Carnico** are washed by Friuli's largest lake: the **lake of Cavazzo** or of the **Three Municipalities**. The hollow in which it lies is rich in vegetation and protected from the winds by the surrounding mountains. In summer one normally bathes in it. The peculiar geographical position, between the plain and the mountains, at the confluence of the Carnic and Julian Pre-Alps, and the microclimate variety leads to the presence of peculiar habitats. Such a biodiversity also reveals itself in the flora and fauna: there are almost 1200 species of vascular plants out of over 3300 entities registered in the region, among which the *Paonia officinalis*, and many species of orchids; moreover, among the mammals, there are the Eastern hedgehog, the golden



jackal and the striped field mouse. The entomological world is extremely rich: here you can see over 100 species of diurnal butterflies and over 550 nocturnal butterflies. For this reason **Bordano** is called the town of butterflies, which can be seen along the easy entomological path equipped with explanation boards, on the murals that embellish the town streets and in the house of butterflies. The whole territory is rich in cycle tracks, among which we would like to point out the climb to **Mount San Simone**, from which you will enjoy an amazing panoramic view.