

Jewels of art

The thousand facets of art at the border between the East and the West

Elegant and decorous, proud of their beauty but never exhibitionist, the cities of Friuli Venezia Giulia travelled the globe, listened to foreign languages and met distant cultures and religions. To see this, you just need to stand in Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia and look at the Audace pier in Trieste, where the first Italian ship docked on 3rd November 1918, symbolising the annexation of Trieste to the Kingdom of Italy, although the city had to wait until 1954 to finally become Italian; or you might choose to walk in the colourful square outside the Transalpine Railway Station in Gorizia, with one foot in Italy and the other in Slovenia. For centuries Celts, Romans, Huns, Lombards, Venetians and Austro-Hungarians passed through these places and all left an indelible mark that mingled with local traditions. Thus Trieste “dressed in Hapsburg clothes”, Udine became home of Tiepolo, Gorizia was called the “Austrian Nice” and Pordenone alternates between Roman, Baroque and Gothic influences and hosts in its province Sacile, the “Garden of the Serenissima Republic of Venice”. Discovering Friuli Venezia Giulia’s art and cultural treasures has never been easier and better value with the **FVG Card**, the destination card which allows holders to **enter the museums** in the cities of art **free of charge**, as well as to take part in the TurismoFVG **guided tours**.

After Trieste’s primacy in 2005 and 2009, in the 2011 besides the regional capital, also Udine, Pordenone and Gorizia, are to be found among the first 30 Italian provinces as for the **quality of life** on the national list drawn up by *Il Sole 24 Ore*.

Set in an unrivalled corner of the world, between the white of the Karst landscape and the dazzling blue of the northernmost edge of the Adriatic Sea, **Trieste** has always been a vital meeting point between the East and the West. The city that for centuries belonged to everyone and to no one still has the cosmopolitan, cross-border soul of a place where different cultures, languages and traditions can get together.

Udine, the elegant and convivial city, where the refinement of the architecture is linked to the rustic charm of the *osterias*, is the jewel-box- city of Tiepolo, the last great painter of the Venetian school. The artist, who spent the most productive period of his career in the capital city of Friuli, left in Udine a number of masterpieces, many of which are on view in the Archiepiscopal Palace and others can be seen in the Cathedral and in the Gallery of Historic Art in the castle that overlooks the old town centre. Thanks to the visits organized by TurismoFVG, bicycles will be the most suitable means of transport to discover the artistic highlights of the town.

If Trieste reflects its ancient role as the region’s trade emporium, **Gorizia** has always been the real “melting pot” of Central Europe. It was here, at the crossroad of three European cultures – Latin, Slav and German - that the last fence of the Cold War between Eastern and Western Europe was torn down in 2004.

Pordenone is an elegant town that enchants with its charming old historical centre, a real mosaic of 16th century palazzos, Romanesque churches, porticoes, frescoed façades, Gothic and Baroque buildings. A stroll under the prestigious arcades of the *Corso* or a visit to the museums or to the temporary exhibitions will let you discover the local history and culture.

Suggested visits

- ✓ **Miramare Castle**, fairy-tale residence of the Archduke Maximilian of Habsburg and Charlotte of Belgium.
- ✓ Take the literary trail: the streets and places that inspired great masterpieces by **Italo Svevo**, **Umberto Saba**, **James Joyce** and **Veit Heinichen**.
- ✓ Explore the characteristic **cafés of Trieste** and enjoy an ancient Central European tradition.
- ✓ Visit the **Grotta Gigante (Giant Cave)** in Sgonico, Europe’s largest tourist cave (free with the FVG Card).
- ✓ Go for an unforgettable ride on the **Opicina Tram**, the historic cable tram dating back to 1902.
- ✓ Follow the **religious routes** – from the Jewish districts to the ancient traces of Islam and the Orthodox Churches – that will take you from Gorizia to Trieste, Udine, San Daniele and Gradisca.
- ✓ **Gorizia’s medieval castle** and **Provincial museums**. Admission free with the FVG Card.



Miramare Castle – Trieste



Piazza Libertà – Udine



Medieval Castle - Gorizia



Town Hall - Pordenone

Friuli Venezia Giulia Tourist Board – Press Office

Via Carso, 3

33052 Cervignano del Friuli (UD) - Italy

Tel. +39 0431 387111 Fax +39 0431 387199

e-mail press@turismo.fvg.it; website www.turismofvg.it