

## Living history

*From the Ancient Romans to the Cold War: history was made here*

Put yourself in the shoes of a legionary on watch among the pillars of the Roman forum, brandish a double-edged sword left behind on the battlefield by the Lombards, discover traces of the Cold War's Iron Curtain. Or walk along paths trodden by a young German officer called Rommel, crawl among the trenches that inspired the poet Giuseppe Ungaretti and search for the dungeons of a fortress in the midst of powder magazines, gun batteries and tunnels. In a region peppered with **battlefields** and places where history was made, the past is truly in the air.

Friuli Venezia Giulia is deep in the heart of Europe, but it is also open to the Adriatic. Its strategic position has often made it the centre of great conflicts and the site of some of the most significant moments in history. It was here that the ancient Romans built the fourth town of Europe, **Aquileia**. The Lombards, who were at one and the same time warriors and craftsmen, horsemen and goldsmiths, shaped the land and built a metropolis called Forum Iulii – now **Cividale** – from which the name Friuli is derived. Later, the area became the favourite playground of the Hapsburg Empire. In more recent times, some of the most crucial episodes of the First World War took place in Friuli Venezia Giulia.

### World War I

The bloody battles of the Great War branded this region with fire. It was not only a frontier, but also the deciding factor in Italy's victory or defeat. From Carnia to Isontino, from the Natisone valleys to Trieste's Karst area, Friuli Venezia Giulia is an enormous open-air war museum. It is no chance that Udine was the military capital of Italy from 1915 to 1918. There are many historic sites that will stir your emotions, like the **Memorial in Redipuglia**, where the remains of 100,000 soldiers who fell in the war are laid to rest, or the **First World War Museum in Gorizia**. Then, too, there is a full series of events and thematic programmes, ranging from historic reconstructions to tours exploring places of interest.

### Historic heritage

Thanks to its encounters with the races and cultures that have crossed its territory, Friuli Venezia Giulia offers a tapestry of places and historic remains of immeasurable value. For example, the **Lombard temple in Cividale**, or the art treasures of **Aquileia** – a UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site – including the mosaic floor in the basilica, the largest in Europe, and **Venzone**, a fortified town, which has been declared a national monument.

### Not to be missed

- ✓ The **First World War Theme Park**: open-air museum in Monfalcone.
- ✓ **Osoppo and the First World War Museum of Ragogna**: for connoisseurs. Admission free for FVG Card holders.
- ✓ The **War Memorial at Redipuglia**, a huge monument that looks like an army on parade, where the remains of 100,000 soldiers who fell during the war are laid to rest.
- ✓ The **Risiera di San Sabba**, was a Nazi concentration camp in Trieste, now is a National Monument.
- ✓ The **Foiba di Basovizza**, National Monument symbol of all the atrocities perpetrated at the end of WW2 by Yugoslav partisans.
- ✓ The impressive **Tagliamento line of defence**, scattered with ruins and blockhouses.
- ✓ **Alpe Adria Militaria**, an exhibition of historical-military objects.



Fortifications



War Memorial at Redipuglia



Trench



Archive photo

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