

## Discovering the secrets of the countryside

*Rural villages, local products and ancient crafts for a holiday that will never bore you*

For those who are curious, for those who are particularly dynamic, for anyone who wants to pack a multitude of experiences into a single holiday, this is the place to go to, in a territory crossable North-South and East-West in an hour of driving. The wealth of different landscapes and microclimates captured between the mountains and the sea is complemented by a full programme of events and endless opportunities to satisfy your taste for exploration. There is a whole world to discover that will tempt your fancy: food and wine tours, crafts that have never been lost, archaeological remains, rural and mediaeval villages, hidden castles, waterside tracks and ancient mills, historical re-enactments, timeless rituals, even witches' paths. Moreover, the discovery itineraries are easier and even better value with the **FVG Card**, Friuli Venezia Giulia's destination card, which offers a wide range of **discounts and free entries** to be used on the services and tourist attractions throughout the region.

Friuli Venezia Giulia has its own special kind of hospitality, too. A wide range of alternative accommodation facilities enables to plunge into authentic rural life. For instance, you might choose to stay in one of the **Alpine shepherds' huts**, with the chance to lend a hand with cheese-making; or you might like to stay on one of the **holiday farms**. Amongst the alternative kinds of accommodation you can find bed&breakfasts as well as "**Albergo Diffuso**" – a innovative concept of accommodation developed in Friuli Venezia Giulia - that lets you combine the service of a hotel with the freedom of a holiday apartment. Visitors stay in ancient houses in small towns or villages, which have been perfectly restored, decorated and equipped in the typical mountain tradition, but with access to all the services of a hotel, all this at extremely competitive prices. Friuli Venezia Giulia's Bed&Breakfasts have a renewed quality system that allows to accommodate, at the same facility, groups of maximum eight people. Tourists may choose among three categories: "standard", "comfort" or "superior".

### Places and traditions worth discovering

- ✓ **Aquileia**, a metropolis of the Roman Empire, is a real open-air archaeological museum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ✓ **Spilimbergo**, the capital of **mosaic art**. It offers courses at the prestigious Mosaic School of Friuli.
- ✓ **Sacile**, the "**garden of the Serenissima Republic of Venice**", split between two islands linked by bridges and canals.
- ✓ **Palmanova**, the ideal fortress town enclosed by a 9-pointed star fortifications, a National Monument.
- ✓ **Villa Manin** of Passariano, a well-known Venetian residence where Napoleon signed the Treaty of Campo Formio. Today it is a renowned venue for international exhibitions.
- ✓ **Cividale del Friuli**, the **capital** of the first **Lombard Duchy** in Italy, whose itinerary is today UNESCO World Heritage.
- ✓ **Palù di Livenza** one of the oldest pile-dwelling sites in northern Italy, listed as a UNESCO "Prehistoric pile-dwelling site in the Alps".
- ✓ **Poffabro, Cordovado, Fagagna, Clauiano, Gradisca d'Isonzo and Valvasone** are included among the most beautiful Italian villages.
- ✓ **Forni di Sopra, Raveo, Sauris, Sutrio, Ampezzo, Camino al Tagliamento, Comeglians, Erto e Casso, Lauco, Ovaro, Prato Carnico, Preone, Ravascletto and Socchieve** are included in the "Borghi autentici d'Italia" (Authentic towns of Italy) network, places where you can experience genuine feelings.
- ✓ **Val Resia**, where language and traditions have remained unchanged for almost fifteen centuries.
- ✓ **The land of castles in the Friuli's hilly area**, steeped in history and strewn with ancient manors.

### Connoisseurs corner

- ✓ **Looking for osmize on the Karst**: private houses of winemakers, where it is possible to taste typical local dishes (own production). How to find them? Keep your eyes on the branch (frasca)!
- ✓ Test your palate on a **food and wine tasting tour** along the roads of wine and flavours.
- ✓ **San Daniele del Friuli**, the land of prosciutto (cured ham) with a claim to the largest number of tasting centres in Italy. The town's splendid historic centre includes the oldest public library in Italy.
- ✓ Typical delicacies from **Cividale**: salami flavoured with garlic, or cooked in vinegar with onion, and gubana, a pastry made to an ancient recipe, with a filling of dried fruit, candied peel, and spices.



Strassoldo Castle



Millwheel close-up



Rocca Bernarda



Giant Cave

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](mailto:press@turismo.fvg.it); website [www.turismofvg.it](http://www.turismofvg.it)