



## New guided visits for discovering a still unexplored Friuli Venezia Giulia



Agenzia TurismoFVG (Friuli Venezia Giulia's Tourist Board) proposes interesting **guided visits** to Friuli Venezia Giulia's historical and cultural sites all summer long.

New this year the visits, proposed on alternate Saturdays, "**Literary Trieste – Trieste, the inspiration of great writers**" and "**Trieste, a mosaic of cultures – Many religions, one people**", the first will lead the city's visitors to the places that inspired the great names of past and contemporary literature to rediscover the stories of classical authors like Joyce, Saba and Svevo, but also

of more modern authors like Heinichen and Magris, whereas the latter will lead visitors to the discovery of the different cultures and races that transformed the small medieval seaside town into one of the largest trading centres of the nineteenth century.

Another interesting visit is "**Archaeology in Carnia – Guided tours to the discovery of the ancient Iulium Carnicum – Zuglio**" that, on Saturdays from 28<sup>th</sup> May, will reveal the still hidden mysteries of Italy's most northern Roman town. The Town Archaeological Museum will provide visitors with a survey of the current state of archaeological research in Carnia and an up-to-date picture of the results obtained during the investigations carried out in Zuglio; the tour will also include the visit to the Forum, built in the Augustan Age and dominated by a sacred building.

Not only new visits but also visits of great success already proposed in the past will start again with a rich summer schedule; among them, the "**Guided tours to the discovery of Aquileia**", a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Italy's most important archaeological sites, and the "**Guided tours to the discovery of Cividale del Friuli**", the capital of the first Lombard duchy in Italy; moreover, all year round but with more frequency in summer, there will be the "**Guided tours to the discovery of Trieste – Discover Trieste's most beautiful corners**".

Particularly interesting are the visits dedicated to the mosaic art of Spilimbergo: "**Lands of mosaics – Guided visits to Friuli's Mosaic Schools**". The visit will take place inside the school, the only facility in the world fully dedicated to mosaic art, which is attended by students of all nationalities. An original peculiarity of this visit proposed by TurismoFVG is the practical demonstration of the mosaic techniques by two students during the visit to the classrooms.

Like every year, May 1<sup>st</sup> will be the opening date of the season of the shows by the Italian National Aerobatic Team; an opportunity not to miss the appointment with "**LIVE Frece Tricolori – Guided visits to the Air Base of Rivolto**", a thrilling experience guided by a member of the Air Force inside the logistic centre and starting point of the shows of the Italian National Aerobatic Team. For further information, please visit the **website of TurismoFVG Tourist Board** ([www.turismofvg.it](http://www.turismofvg.it)) or call the toll free number **800 016 044**. It is possible to book and enter for the guided visits at all the TurismoFVG Information Points of the region. Moreover, various offers are available: many activities are free for **FVG Card** (the discovery card from Agenzia TurismoFVG) holders.





## A holiday on a house boat: a river cruise suitable for everyone



This year Friuli Venezia Giulia proposes a new holiday experience: in fact, it is possible to travel along one of region's waterways on a real **house boat**, feeling the thrill of becoming the captain of a unique river cruise, choosing the rhythm of one's holiday, having the chance to combine relaxation and recreational activities on land, experiencing something new and funny every day.

This holiday is suitable for everyone (families, groups of friends, couples) and provides the opportunity to visit romantic locations rich in charm, to go on tours on land, thus discovering the most interesting and picturesque towns and tasting the excellent local cuisine; and to do this, you won't even need to be an expert sailor, because the house boats can be driven **without a boat licence!**

Setting sail from **Precenicco**, you can leave to the discovery of the **ancient** Litoranea Veneta **waterway**, historically used by the Venetians for their trades in the hinterland; this itinerary allows to cross towns of great beauty and interest, as well as valuable nature reserves. Moreover, the most famous beaches of north-eastern Italy are just a few steps away: shores of fine sand gently sloping into the sea in **Lignano Sabbiadoro** and in Grado, bays surrounded by white rocks in Trieste. By mooring the boat a short way from the town centre, you can enjoy fantastic relaxing days on the seashore.

Among the most important towns we would like to mention **Aquileia**, founded in 181 B.C. and featuring an archaeological area of exceptional importance, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thousands of Roman finds are collected at the National Archaeological Museum and in the temple of the wonderful Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption you can admire the famous early-Christian mosaics that represent a fundamental stage in Italian art history.

Connected to the dry land by a narrow strip of land, you will find **Grado**, which preserves an old town centre where you will enjoy to get lost among *calli* and alleys, overlooked by the picturesque fishermen's houses standing next to one another.

Just a few kilometres away you will find **Trieste**, an ancient maritime republic and today a European cultural capital; mooring the house boat in Grado, in fact, it is possible to go on interesting daily tours making use of the fast boat service.

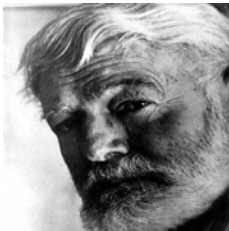
This itinerary will suit everyone's tastes because, besides the fun and relaxation of the beaches and the historical sites, you will also find wonderful unspoilt nature. In fact, you will also find the **Lagoon of Marano**, which is comprised between the last coastal point of Lignano and the **Lagoon of Grado**: it is an area of extraordinary landscape beauty featuring unique flora and fauna of great natural value. Protected from the open sea by a series of island and islets, such as that of Sant'Andrea, also known as the **Islands of shells**, it is characterised by marsh vegetation and by the peculiarity of the temporary fishermen's settlements.



Finally, you can also take bicycles on board of the house boats, thus being able to go on **bicycle tours**, which will give you the chance to enjoy all the natural and architectural beauties in the surroundings of the waterways.



## Hemingway and the prophecy that let the world discover “Italy’s Florida” – Part six: famous authors in Friuli Venezia Giulia



From twenty-seven years **Lignano Sabbiadoro** has been recalling the always modern charm of Ernest Hemingway, on the occasion of the “**Premio Ernest Hemingway Lignano Sabbiadoro**”, one of the most prestigious journalistic-literary competitions in Italy, which this year will be held on **21<sup>st</sup> May**. As usual, this year’s Prize, too, will enhance the bond that, from the day of the writer’s visit to the **beach of Pineta**, Lignano has never forgotten. In fact, Hemingway’s visit to the famous seaside resort on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1954 became legendary; the fate

of this resort characterised by “golden sand” was sealed when the **Nobel** Prize winning writer prophetically said: “***This place will become Italy’s Florida***”. And, like in a prophecy, Lignano Pineta was born, exactly as talented **architect Marcello D’Olivo** imagined it, designing a futuristic circular plan with low houses protected by the pinewood where every house was at the same distance from the sea. The famous writer was so charmed by Lignano that he decided to build a house there; he bought a piece of land but, in the end, the house has never been built. Today, on that piece of land you will find the **Hemingway Park**, a wonderful public park immersed in the pinewood, where children can play and adults can keep fit thanks to the specially created fitness trail.

In the autumn of 1948, during a holiday in Cortina, Hemingway made friends with the **Kechler counts**, who owned various residences to the **south of Udine**, in Friuli Venezia Giulia and, after hearing of his love for fishing, they invited him to their house of **Percoto**. At that time Villa Kechler was provided with a large park that was used for fox hunting; at present, opposite the villa, you can see the old **seventeenth-century** well at the centre of a green flowerbed.

These places, seen in particular in their winter look, produced in him a sort of enchantment that allowed him to communicate his worries and obsessions for the Second World War, his growing old and his dream for a new youth in his novel “**Across the River and into the Trees**”.

The writer integrated so well at the wonderful residences of the Kechler family, in the middle of a wonderful landscape of willows, poplars and lagoons that reminded him of the places of his childhood, that he was often given hospitality at Villa Barbarigo de Asarta of **Fraforeano** and in **San Martino di Codroipo**, a magnificent former residence of the Manin family, which probably is the place he talks about in his novel when he says “*I’d like to be buried way out at the edge of the grounds, but in sight of the old graceful house and the tall, great trees. (...) I could be a part of the ground where the children play in the evenings, and in the mornings, maybe, they would still be training jumping horses and their hoofs would make the thudding on the turf, and trout would rise in the pool when there was a hatch of fly.*”

But unfortunately, after 1954, this great writer never came back again to these places rich in charm and in stories still to be told.





## Stazione di Topolò, a crossroads of meetings and cultural exchanges worthy of a capital city



From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July Topolò, a small village of thirty inhabitants on the extreme border between Italy and Slovenia in the **Natisone Valleys**, will stage the 18<sup>th</sup> festival “Stazione di Topolò/Postaja Topolove” (Topolò Station), which every year transforms the village into a **crossroads of meetings and cultural exchanges** worthy of a capital city. Film directors, musicians, writers, photographers, performers and scientists from all over the world compare their research with the many-sided reality of this location.

Stazione di Topolò is defined a “**non-festival**” due to its anomalous characteristics as compared to the usual art festivals. The reasons are many, starting from the logistical situation; the artists, in fact, accommodated in the town’s houses, experience an everyday situation different from that they are used to and that usually relegates them to hotels from which they exit only for the exhibitions. In Topolò this does not happen because the programme does not include travelling shows but only **specially designed projects**. What can be seen and listened to is born out of the relationship with the location – in fact, people use what is in the village, adapting themselves to spaces and situations that are not modified – which becomes the main inspirer of all the interventions that in this way are unique and unrepeatable, increasingly attracting people from non-artistic fields as well.

The demolition of frontiers between a well-known artist and the audience is one of the mainstays of Stazione di Topolò and of its uniqueness; in fact, in Topolò there are no stages, dressing rooms or passive audience because this is a way of creating culture that is born out of the **meeting between real professionals and simple amateurs**. Everything takes place without formalism and artificial superstructures, thus creating a top-quality cultural programme at low costs.

Considering that the performances are created “on the spot” and the artists participate for free, the detailed programme is never “revealed” until the last moment, thus leaving everyone with bated breath. Anyway, although the proposals are secrets, many will be the “travellers” who will reach the Station to realize their projects. According to anticipations, there will be graphic designer **Guido Scarabottolo**, German performer **Ulay**, the couple of Norwegian musicians **Per Platou and Signe Lidén**, English photographer and musician **Jez Riley French**, writer **Gian Luca Favetto**, video maker and electro musician **Massimo Croce**, **Piccola Officina di Teatro** from Naples with their “theatre for one listener”, Slovenian film director **Anja Medved** with her investigations on the border secrets, workshops dedicated to **street percussion** and to **klezmer music** (of Jewish tradition), the Topolovska Minimalna Orkestra de Les Tambours de Topolò – an ensemble made up of a variable number of professionals and of local young beginners – and the Cultural Centre of the University of Klagenfurt. Moreover, there will be the peculiar performance by artist and marathon runner **Enrico Viola**, who will run along the 140 kilometres that separate Topolò from the Istrian-Slovenian Topolovec. These are only some of the participants in the 18<sup>th</sup> **Stazione di Topolò**.





## Gelindo dei Magredi Country Resort, the pleasure of genuineness



In the town of **Vivaro**, a little north of Pordenone, at the foot of the Friulian Dolomites and immersed in the wide territory of the *Magredi* (a **Special Protection Area for the avifauna and a Community Interest Site**), you will find a country resort where adults and children will have the chance to live in contact with the farm animals, with the surrounding nature and genuine products. Founded in 1970 as a farm by the descendents of Gelindo, a Hungarian nobleman, the facility “Gelindo dei

Magredi” has grown so much that today it also houses an **Ecomuseum** and provides the opportunity to spend a happy, light-hearted and educational holiday; the strong point of this **farm hotel**, in fact, consists of the capability of letting guests rediscover the flavours, values and traditions that sometimes people are likely to forget and that often are not handed down correctly to the new generations.

The **farm** provides the opportunity to take part in many activities, organizing **cooking courses** for adults with the possibility to make jams and take them home at the end of the holiday or **workshops of mosaic art and ancient crafts** suitable for all ages. Moreover, the **botanical garden, archery, bicycles, the swimming pool, horses and donkeys** complete the offer making the location ideal for all kinds of holidays.

Food is natural, too, as the facility proposes simple and rustic cuisine based on the products of the **organic farm**: wildflower honey from the Magredi, butter, Montasio cheese, chickens, guinea fowls, geese, mallards, rabbits, pigs, lambs and ostriches **reared in the crisp open air of the Magredi**. And then omelettes made with fresh eggs and accompanied by the excellent herbs from the vegetable garden; all this washed down with organic apple juice and with the typical wines from the Magredi.

The lodgings are distributed in 4 outbuildings and feature **rooms provided with all comforts**, the restaurants are cosy and large spaces of the farm are dedicated to organic farming and to rural wellness; all these details make “Gelindo dei Magredi” an ideal **Country Resort** for a short stay and for a holiday characterised by **wellbeing**.

