

FIRST WORLD WAR

Discovering First World War open-air museums and itineraries in Friuli Venezia Giulia

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

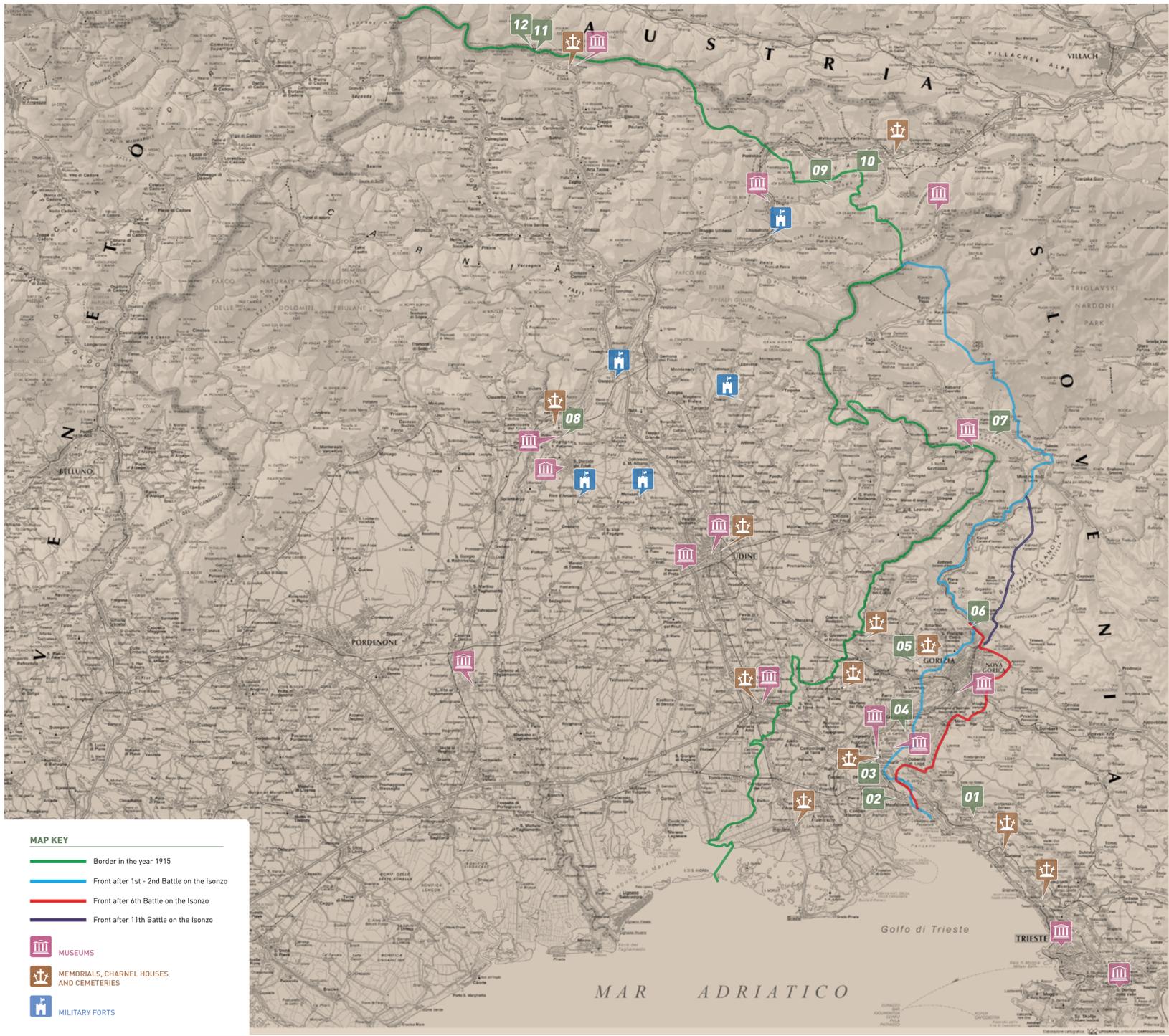


HOW TO GET THERE

BY CAR: Motorways A4, A23, A23 Palmanova - Udine - Tarvisio, A82 Portogruaro - Conegliano. BY PLANE: Regional Airport of Trieste, Udine, Gorizia. BY TRAIN: Trenitalia, Calt. centre 39.20.21.

TOURIST INFORMATION

AGENZIA TURISMOFGV: Villa Chiozza - Via Carso, 3. INFOPOINT TURISMOFGV di Gorizia: corso Italia, 9 - 34170 Gorizia. INFOPOINT TURISMOFGV di Udine: piazza I° Maggio, 7 - 33100 Udine. INFOPOINT TURISMOFGV di Trieste: via dell'Orologio, 1 - 34121 Trieste.



MAP KEY: Border in the year 1915, Front after 1st - 2nd Battle on the Isonzo, Front after 6th Battle on the Isonzo, Front after 11th Battle on the Isonzo.

MUSEUMS, MEMORIALS, CHARNEL HOUSES AND CEMETERIES, MILITARY FORTS

First World War

ALL OVER FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA YOU WILL FIND PLACES, MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS THAT RECALL THE FIRST WORLD WAR. This region, a borderland for a long time, was a protagonist in the three years of the war against the Austro-Hungarian and German armies.



Museums section listing various sites like Museo di Risorgimento, First World War Museum of Ragogna, and Museo di San Michele del Carso with their locations and opening times.

Museums section listing sites like 'Generale Umberto Romel' private Historical Museum, Casa Rurale, and various military museums with their locations and opening times.

Memorials, Charnel Houses and Cemeteries section listing sites like Redipuglia Memorial, Charnel House of Ostavia, and various cemeteries with their locations and descriptions.

Chronological Line section detailing key events from 1914 to 1918, such as the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the start of the Isonzo battles, and the final Italian offensive in 1918.

Military Forts of the First World War section listing various forts like Fort of S. Margherita, Fort of S. Nicolao, and Fort of S. Donato with their locations and historical significance.



The Cemetery of Heroes of Aquileia and the Charnel House of Oslavia

CEMETERY OF HEROES OF AQUILEIA

In 1915 the bodies of many fallen on the Karst began to be collected at the cemetery of Aquileia. When they began to transfer the bodies of the dead soldiers into the large Memorials and Charnel Houses, the bodies buried at the cemetery of Aquileia were not moved. This happened for a series of reasons among which, not least, the awareness that the body of the Unknown Soldier had left from Aquileia. On 28th October 1921, in the Basilica of Aquileia, the mother of a missing Italian irredentist soldier, Maria Bergamas, chose one of the eleven coffins of nameless soldiers collected in various places of the front. The coffin received military honours and was transported to the Altar of the Fatherland in Rome. The other ten bodies remained in Aquileia were buried in the war cemetery at the back of the basilica. Afterwards, the same cemetery received the body of Maria Bergamas from Gradisca as well. Inside the cemetery you will find important marble groups such as the "Sacrifices" by Edmondo Furlan, "Pieta" by Ettore Ximenes and the stone arcosolium, designed by architect Cirilli, made in axis with the basilica that dominates the tomb of the 10 unknown soldiers. On 1st November of every year the Fiaccola Alpina della Fraternalità Alpina Torch of Brotherhood coming from Timau pays homage to all the fallen.

For information: Basilica of Aquileia - tel. +39 0431 91067



Redipuglia Memorial

Redipuglia is Italy's largest military memorial of the First World War. Waiting along the imposing monument made of white Karst stone, by architect Giovanni Greggi and sculptor Giannino Castiglioni, it is possible to start an itinerary among trenches and historical memories that is completed with the visit to the close Open-air Museum of the Defence area of the Dolina del XV Bersaglieri. [see route 03]

The present charnel house, opened on 18th September 1938, two years after the beginning of the works, looks like a large staircase that reaches the top of the Quota 89 height. After passing the bullets placed on the entrance towers, the anchor chain of the Grado Destroyer and the remains of the armoured trench (on the right), walk along the Via Eroica, bounded by 19 bronze stones on the right and left sides, and on foot you will reach the real charnel house, where an epigraph signed by Emmanuel Filiberto of Savoy indicates the entrance to the cemetery. To the fore there is the tomb of the Duke of Aosta (Commander of the Third Army) and at its back five blocks of stones with the bodies of five generals, some of whom were on the side of the Duke of Aosta in his war choices.

Behind the line of the generals there are twenty-two large steps with the word "presente" (present) repeatedly engraved on their top edge.



39.857 known soldiers are buried in the large steps, in alphabetical order from the letter "a" of the first large step to the letter "z" of the twenty-second step. Moreover, on the twenty-second step, two large common graves on the sides of the Chapel dedicated to the fallen collect the bodies of 60.330 unknown soldiers. Moreover, at the centre of the first large step there is the body of Red Cross nurse Margherita Orlando, the only woman buried here. On the top, above the chapel, three bronze crosses, the symbol both of sacrifice for the country and of the soldiers' will to rise to God, are clearly visible. Two concepts by which the architecture of the Memorial is inspired. On the opposite San'Elia Hill, stones and epigraphs recall the first war cemetery dedicated to the "Invitti della 3^a Armata" (Undefeated of the 3rd Army), opened on 24th May 1923 and later transformed into "Parco della Rimmembranza" [Park of Remembrance]. Nearby you will also find the "Casa 3^a Armata" First World War Museum and the Austro-Hungarian cemetery where 14.650 soldiers rest less than 1 km away in the direction of Sagrado.

For information: Redipuglia Military Memorial - tel. +39 0481 489024



Mount Ermada

Mount Ermada was a strategic place for the control of the Bretonica Valley and of the sea routes towards Trieste. The Mount, never conquered by the Italian army, provides visitors with the possibility to admire the complex Austrian entrenched camp, consisting of several defence lines and various trenches, dug in the ground or built using natural cavities. Leaving from the village of Cergolje, along the loop route you will first reach the "Grotta del Motore" (Motor Cave - 3719 Vb) and the "Grotta del Monte Ermada" [Cave of Mount Ermada - 4261 Vb] and then you will find the entrances to the "Onofra Jama" or "Fire Cave" [at the time of the war known as "Salvator Hohle"].



From the close observation post you will enjoy a wonderful view over Isonzo, Larnjevič, Dobrdož (Dobersdorf), Bretonistica Valley (Bretonstica Val) and the Karst of Comeno (Komenski Kras). Proceeding towards Casa Coisce - Kohnšize you will follow long stretches of the second Austrian entrenched line, which winds on the ridge of the Quota 289, 280 and 279 heights, with the possibility to observe the many reinforced-concrete structures and artificial tunnels built along its route. Before reaching the Quota 298 height and starting the descent towards Cergolje - Cergolje, it is also possible to visit the Karl and Zita caves.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Trieste** tel. +39 040 4278112
- **Sentieri di Pace** - tel. + 39 0481 489139

HOW TO GET THERE
Departure from the village of Cergolje, which can be reached from Sistiana (State Road S.S. 14) following the road signs to Visogliano and turning left immediately after the motorway fly-over bridge.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Logistics:** car park close to the small Church (limited parking places)
- **Paths:** C.A.I. n. 3 and n. 8
- **Difficulty:** hiking route
- **Duration of the route:** from 3 to 6 hours (variable according to the areas chosen)
- **Equipment:** robust shoes (dirt road surface), long trousers, a good water supply and a torch for those who wish to enter the caves.

• **Suggested period:** spring, autumn and first winter months.
During the summer period it is necessary to make sure that the paths are clean.

• **Suggested period:** spring, autumn and first winter months.



03 GORIZIA AND COLLIO

Fogliano Redipuglia

A short way from the Redipuglia Memorial is Mount Sei Busi with its large open-air museum called "Defence area of the Dolina del XV Bersaglieri". The museum is linked to Monfalcone's First World War Theme Park and to Mount San Michele and extends in the municipalities of Fogliano Redipuglia and Ronchi del Legionario. In the Dolina del XV Bersaglieri there are still the remains of a military hospital and a common grave, marked by a precious inscription of the period.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Gorizia** tel. +39 0481 535764
- **Sentieri di Pace** tel. +39 0481 489139

HOW TO GET THERE
From the foot of the Redipuglia Memorial turn into the road that leads to the top. Shortly after midway up the climb you will get to a fork marked by a stone capital. Going right

From the Dolina, through the communication trenches, you will reach the reinforced-concrete fortified line of Mount Sei Busi that, with its battlefield, shows how anomalous the war on the Karst was, where the distance between the opposite trenches was very reduced. Along this line one can still see the many plates and epigraphs created by the soldiers during this period.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Gorizia** +39 0481 535764
- **Museo di Mount San Michele** tel. +39 0481 92002
- **Gruppo Speleologico Carso** tel. +39 040 5581738
- **Sentieri di Pace** tel. +39 0481 489139

HOW TO GET THERE
From Segrado follow the road signs to San Martino and San Michele and stop in the large square of the museum. From the large square the path for visiting the four tops and the Italian line on which gas was used starts. To reach San Martino go back on the same road and you will reach the town centre to

visit the museum, the Honved stone and the plaque with the poem by Giuseppe Ungaretti. On the same road after about one kilometre you will get to a fork with the road sign to Dobrdož del Lago. After a couple of km on the left you will find a gravelly parking area from which the C.A.I. 77 path, which crosses the battle area, starts. Along the Sagrado-San Martino del Carso road, after about 4 kilometres, you will find the Casette Vecchio Wine Farm, which comprises the Ungaretti Literary Park.

USEFUL INFORMATION
ROUTE of Mount San Michele:

- **Logistics:** parking area for cars

and coaches in front of the museum.

- **Paths:** cartways, C.A.I. N. 76
- **Difficulty:** car-tourist route
- **Duration of the route:** from 1 to 3 hours (variable according to the areas chosen)
- **Equipment:** robust shoes (dirt road surface), long trousers, a good water supply and a torch for those who wish to enter the caves
- **Suggested period:** all year round

ROUTE of San Martino del Carso:

- **Logistics:** available parking area (about 10 min. on foot)



04 GORIZIA AND COLLIO

San Michele del Carso

Mount San Michele (actually only 275 m a.s.l.) was the main Austro-Hungarian bulwark on the Isonzo Karst. It was harshly contended until its Italian conquest in August 1916. Declared a Monumental Area in 1922, it today preserves many interesting traces. Partially visible are the Cave of the Filippo Corradini Stone and the Rigata Sassari Stone, together with the G. Ungaretti Literary Park at the Casette Vecchio Wine farm are the main points of this second part of the route. All these places immersed in the quiet of the Karst still provide evidence of a past in which various nations fought one another. In memory thereof at the centre of San Martino you will find a plaque featuring the lines of the poem "San Martino del Carso" by Giuseppe Ungaretti and a private First World War Museum.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Gorizia** +39 0481 535764
- **Museo di Mount San Michele** tel. +39 0481 92002
- **Gruppo Speleologico Carso** tel. +39 040 5581738
- **Sentieri di Pace** tel. +39 0481 489139

HOW TO GET THERE
From Segrado follow the road signs to San Martino and San Michele and stop in the large square of the museum. From the large square the path for visiting the four tops and the Italian line on which gas was used starts. To reach San Martino go back on the same road and you will reach the town centre to

visit the museum, the Honved stone and the plaque with the poem by Giuseppe Ungaretti. On the same road after about one kilometre you will get to a fork with the road sign to Dobrdož del Lago. After a couple of km on the left you will find a gravelly parking area from which the C.A.I. 77 path, which crosses the battle area, starts. Along the Sagrado-San Martino del Carso road, after about 4 kilometres, you will find the Casette Vecchio Wine Farm, which comprises the Ungaretti Literary Park.

USEFUL INFORMATION
ROUTE of Mount San Michele:

- **Logistics:** parking area for cars

and coaches in front of the museum.

- **Paths:** cartways, C.A.I. N. 76
- **Difficulty:** car-tourist route
- **Duration of the route:** from 1 to 3 hours (variable according to the areas chosen)
- **Equipment:** robust shoes (dirt road surface), long trousers, a good water supply and a torch for those who wish to enter the caves
- **Suggested period:** all year round

ROUTE of San Martino del Carso:

- **Logistics:** available parking area (about 10 min. on foot)



05 GORIZIA AND COLLIO

Mount Calvario and Gorizia

In the first year of war Mount Calvario, also known as Mount Podgora, staged fierce battles. The mount, situated to the north-west of the city of Gorizia, became both the symbol of the war efforts of the Italian troops for the conquest of the city and the symbol of the Austrian troops to defend it. The battle began on 17th July 1915 when, at first, the Italians occupied the Naso di Lucinbio, between 15th and 17th November 1915 the Italians occupied the Austrian defence line along the Vallone delle Acque; on 20th November 1915 the Quota 240 height was occupied and on 7th August 1916 the Cuneo, Casale and Pavia Brigades broke through the Austrian defence lines of Mount Calvario, getting to the right bank of the Isonzo.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Gorizia** tel. +39 0481 535764
- **Associazione Culturale Isonzo info@isonzo-gruppodiferocaccia.it**

HOW TO GET THERE
Car route in the city and in the surroundings of Gorizia.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Paths:** road and some cartways.
- **Logistics:** road easily practicable by coach, coach parking areas in the city or at the foot of the Charnel House of Oslavia.

• **Difficulty:** car route

- **Duration of the route:** from 1 to 3 hours (variable according to the areas chosen) for the visit.
- **Equipment:** comfortable shoes, long trousers and a good water supply.
- **Suggested period:** practicable all year round.

The visit starts from the city centre where, near the Park, you will have the chance to admire the Statue of the Infantryman and the statue dedicated to Enrico Toti, one of the symbols of the First World War, fallen on the Quota 85 height of Monfalcone. From here after about 4 kilometres you will get to Oslavia. The last climb of the Honved stone Charnel House that collects over 57 thousand bodies of soldiers fallen in the various battles fought in this area. By car it is possible to head towards Mount Calvario following the road "Località Vallone dell'Acqua". After about two kilometres of ascent you will find, surrounded by cypresses, the grave of writer Scipio Slataper from Trieste, while on the top of this symbolic rise there are various monuments, such as the Obelisk dedicated to the various units that fought here, the clearing with the Iron Crosses and the Memorial Stone dedicated to the Julian Volunteers.

You will descend again towards the chief town of the Isonzo arriving at the railway underpass dedicated to Aurelio Baruzzi. The route continues on the main road that leads back to Gorizia, that is to say, the Viadotto Ragazzi del '99, and crossing the Ponte S. Antonio bridge. Shortly before the Isonzo is possible to follow the road signs that lead to the Castle of Gorizia where the Museum is located.



06 GORIZIA AND COLLIO

Mount Sabotino

Mount Sabotino, with its 609 metres, controls the access to the city of Gorizia, in a part of the Isonzo valley of the Isonzo plain. During the First World War it became one of the most longed-for and hardest to conquer peaks for the Italian army. Its position allowed the Austro-Hungarian observers to control the movements of the troops of the Kingdom of Italy as far as Bradisca and to efficiently direct the shot of its artillery. The Mount passed to Italy on 6th August 1916; almost at the same time (7th August) the Calvario Hill fell and on 8th August of the same year the Italian units entered Gorizia.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Gorizia** tel. +39 0481 535764
- **Gruppo per le ricerche Archeologiche e Storiche nel Goriziano** tel. +39 347 4420080

HOW TO GET THERE
Casa Rossa Pass in Gorizia, Solkan, Hum, Gorjače, Vrhnove and Plave. After about 2 Km, turn right into a road following the "Pod Sabotin" signs, after about 7 Km you will get to the shelter/Museum.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Logistics:** the road can be travelled over by car, parking area at the foot of the museum.

• **Paths:** cartways and CAI paths lead to the top and to the artillery tunnels

- **Difficulty:** car-hiking route
- **Duration of the route:** 3 hours
- **Equipment:** robust shoes (dirt road surface), long trousers, a good water supply, a torch for entering the caves.
- **Suggested period:** spring, autumn and first winter months.

The museum displays many Italian and Austro-Hungarian remains of trenches, communication trenches, emplacements, tunnels, shelters and headquarters. After the end of the war the Mount was declared a Monumental Area (1922) and set up as a memorial park, with memorial stones and epigraphs. The three pyramids that you will find on the route mark the departure line of the Italian columns during the sixth battle on the Isonzo, memorial symbols that today are still well identifiable.

After reaching the shelter/museum at the foot of the mount, it is easy to reach and visit the Caverna del 310^o Compagnia and the Caverna Armata caves. Following the ridge that leads to the top you will enjoy the view. Museum and the strategic importance of this location. From it, walking along the path, you will reach the Quota di San Valentino height.



02 GORIZIA AND COLLIO

Theme Park of Monfalcone

On the Karst rises at the back of the town of Monfalcone you can visit the open-air museum of the First World War Theme Park. The park, opened in 2005 and extending over about 4 square km, is one of the most recent sites opened in the region and provides visitors with the possibility to observe this war zone, conquered, lost and re-conquered several times by the Italian army during the summer of 1916 and May 1917. Unlike the other open-air museums that are usually structured on a single path featuring several stages, Monfalcone's First World War Theme Park provides three sections that, according to available time, can be visited all together or individually, depending on the their division that is:

- 1 redoubt of the Quota 121 height;
- 2 trenches and Dolina della Solletta
- Quota 85 "Enrico Toti" height;
- 3 Joffre trench and Grotta Virginia (Virgin Cave).

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Gorizia** tel. +39 0481 535764
- **la Montalcone** tel. +39 0481 454229
- **Gruppo speleologico Amici del Fante** tel. +39 0481 40014
- **Sentieri di Pace** tel. +39 0481 489139
- **Website of the Theme Park** www.comune.monfalcone.gi.it

HOW TO GET THERE
At Motorway "Monfalcone exit". For the first two sections turn into Via Colombo, follow Via Romana until reaching Piazzale Tommaso, from which you will continue on foot

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Logistics:** available parking area for cars in Piazzale Tommaso and for coaches in Piazzale Salvo D'Acquisto (10 min. from the entrance of Via del Carso).

07 CIVIDALE AND NATISONE VALLEYS

Mount Kolovrat

Along the Natisone Valleys, during the First World War the Italian Supreme Command ordered the building of a large and well-constructed defence system for protecting the units stationed on the Karst and on the Isonzo. This great historical heritage concerning the 2nd and 3rd Italian defence lines has been recently restored and enhanced. The muletracks and the communication trenches opened by the military engineers, the trenches, the traces left by the soldiers today are within easy reach thanks to the various CAI paths. On the road that leads to the Solarie Pass, the start midway up the mount you will reach the highest peak of the range, Mount Nagno (1192m), from which you will enjoy an amazing view. To get back to the shelter, follow the path that winds in the gorge below the bivouac that descends towards Kras. At the first fork after 300 metres turn left and keep walking for two more kilometres through fields and scrub finally reaching the shelter.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Udine** tel. +39 0432 295772
- **IAT Valli del Natisone** tel. +39 0432 1714559

HOW TO GET THERE
From Cividale follow the State Road S.S. 54 as far as the crossroads of Ponte San Quirino

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Logistics:** presence of parking areas

no (about 5 km) and then cross Asolada in the direction of Treviso. After about 12 km, in Cividale, keep travelling towards Clabuzazzo, cross the towns of Obreanca and Lombai in the direction of Cras. Shortly before the latter, on the right, you will find the fork to the Solarie Pass (about 2 Km).

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Logistics:** presence of parking areas

on the Pass.

- **Paths:** C.A.I. 746
- **Difficulty:** car-tourist route
- **Duration of the route:** 3 hours
- **Equipment:** robust shoes (dirt road surface), long trousers, a good water supply and a torch for those who wish to enter the caves
- **Suggested period:** spring and autumn.



08 FRIULI COLLINARE AND SAN DANIELE DEL FRIULI

Ragogna Forgaria and San Daniele

Since 2007 the open-air First World War Museum, based in Ragogna (Udine), has been present in the Friuli Collinare area. There are four itineraries on the Battle that between 30th October and 4th November tried to stop the Austrian-German advance, integrated by the First World War Museum, at the Town Library in San Giacomo di Ragogna.

The **first itinerary** concerns the fortified complex of the Mount of Ragogna. From the locality of Tabine walk towards the Castle of Reunia and the former war road, from which the visit to the real Mount begins with the "Ragogna Bassa" permanent battery equipped with reserves, casemates, an old waterworks and the emplacements on which the 187mm artillery pieces were arranged. Afterwards a path that crosses the ridge of the Mount leads to the "Ragogna Alta" permanent battery with armoured powder magazines, the Forte del Cavallotto, the second-line trenches and the stronghold of Crei dal Louf and of Spico.

The **second itinerary** leads to the discovery of the Austro-Hungarian entrenched camp of Ragogna, built after having crossed the Tagliamento. A route that starts at the crossroads of Via San Remigio and Via del Lavoro, where you will see a nest of machineguns and, along a cartway that leads towards the Tagliamento, you will find the loghouses of an underground blockhouse, shelters and a trench of trenches with two epigraphs of the 4th Compagnia Corso Tommaso - Regio company.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ROUTE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Udine** tel. +39 0432 295772
- **Gruppo Storico Friuli Collinare** tel. +39 0432 95407
- **First World War Museum of Ragogna** www.grandepurga-ragogna.com

HOW TO GET THERE
From the First World War Museum of Ragogna follow the road signs as far as the locality of Tabine and then the signs "1915-1918 Lugli della Grande Guerra" / "Sentieri"

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Logistics:** CAI paths in the locality of Tabine, coach parking in the locality of Ragogna. Itineraries: 1 and 3: use 2 cars to complete the loop; itinerary 4: use a means of transport.



The **third itinerary** goes from the Bridge of Pizzano to the permanent battery of the Col Colai hill. On the bridge there is a memorial tablet dedicated to the last Italian soldiers who defended this area, while going along the SP4 road towards Pinzano, a muletrack on the right climbs to the remains of the former German Memorial. Back on the main road, you will reach the town, keep going along the top of the Colai Hill where there is the emplacement for the 149 mm barbette guns [that is to say, guns with a defence structure], an underground powder magazine, the six-and-a-half-metre goods hoist, some casemates and the stone entrance.

The **fourth itinerary** involves several municipalities and it is absolutely necessary to have a means of transport at one's disposal. The starting point is the bridge of Cornova and the Isola di Clapaj where the Gona and Siracusa Brigades slowed the advance of the Bosnian troops and the direction of Pionis it is still possible to see the Corinto-Tragassis war road, while from Forgaria and San Rocco you will proceed on Mount Prat, to the Tocchi Valley and, finally, to the Cuel di Forchia, where a path leads to the top of Mount Ciar, with the observation post and a muletrack extending before the First World War. Finally, in San Daniele del Friuli, a memorial tablet placed on the Castle Hill recalls the battle of 20th October 1917 and it is possible to visit the war museum set up by the local section of the ANA (Italian National Association of the Alpine Troops).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- **TurismoFVG Torino** tel. +39 04282135
- **Municipality of Dogna** tel. +39 0428 93