

Udine

Town guide.



Udine is in the middle of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, in a geographically privileged position, surrounded by hills, near both the sea and the mountains and not far from Austria and Slovenia; it is practically in the centre of Europe. Although the town has ancient origins, it was incisively shaped only after it came under the Republic of Venice in 1420, together with the whole Friuli area. During the First World War (1915-1918) it was the headquarters of the Supreme Italian command. Now it is a friendly, hospitable, modern town.



Monuments and places of interest

Piazza Libertà

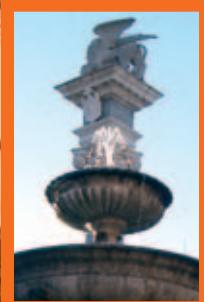
Loggia del Lionello

(1448) a magnificent example of Venetian gothic, in pink and white stone, with a wide-arched portico; the façade bears a five lancet window with a balcony between two triple lancet windows.



Loggia di San Giovanni

(1533) Inside there is a war memorial, on the outside is the Torre dell'Orologio, a clock tower overlooked by two bronze Moors striking the hour. It resembles the clock tower in Piazza San Marco in Venice.



The fountain (1542), the *columns bearing the Lion of St Mark* and the *Statua della Giustizia*, the 18th-century statues of *Hercules and Cacus* and finally the *Statua della Pace* (1819) are the other important aspects of the square.

Castello

Piazzale del Castello
tel. 0432 271591

The way up to the castle is from Piazza Libertà through *Arco Bollani*. The *lion of St Mark* stands atop the arch, built to a design by the famous Venetian architect Andrea Palladio in 1556. Before reaching the top of the hill, walking up on the right under the ramped and stepped *porticato Lippomano* (1487), you come to the **Chiesa di Santa Maria di Castello**, the oldest parish church in Udine. Inside there are valuable frescoes from various periods. It is flanked by the *bell tower*, on top of which

Palazzo del Monte di Pietà

The facade, from the late 16th early 17th century, opens onto portico-lined via Mercatovecchio. It presents two triple lancet windows with balustrades surmounted by a broken pediment and four marble "Pietà" groups. Inside the palazzo is the *Cappella di Santa Maria*, whose alter is overlooked by the *Pietà* (one of the most prestigious items of baroque sculpture in Friuli) and frescoes by Giulio Quaglio (1694).



Cappella Manin

(Via dei Torriani
tel. 0432 271591)

is a gem of local baroque architecture for its interior decorative structure in multicoloured marbles and for the remarkable alto-rilievi along the walls (1733).

Piazza San Giacomo

Porticoed on three sides and closed on the fourth side by the *chiesa di San Giacomo* (1378), this is one of the oldest squares in the town. As in antiquity, it is still used as a market square and for open-air theatre shows and concerts.

In the centre is a *fountain* built in 1543 by Giovanni da Udine, Raphael's pupil, and the Virgin Mary's *votive column* (photo on the next page).



Palazzo D'Aronco - the town hall

Via Lionello, 1

This art nouveau palazzo in Istrian stone was built between 1910 and 1931 by Raimondo D'Aronco, a Friulian architect.



Casa Cavazzini

Via Savorgnana

It is home to an important cycle of frescoes by painters Afro and Mirko Basaldella, and also has richly decorated furnishings and a large *map of Friuli* depicting historic events.

Duomo

An impressive building in the shape of a Latin cross, with three aisles and side chapels. The oldest part of the cathedral dates back to 1335. Its interesting façade was adjusted to transitional Gothic style designs, the main portal is surmounted by a 14th century northern style lunette with bas-reliefs, the lateral portal (next to the bell-tower) is in florid German Gothic style. The monumental baroque interior of the cathedral (70 m long) contains several masterpieces by G.B. Tiepolo, P. Amalteo and L. Dorigny. The **Museo del Duomo** is reached through the presbytery. S. Nicolò's chapel, frescoed by Vitale da Bologna, contains some interesting panel paintings. The baptistery contains the **arca dei SS. Ermacora e Fortunato**, a superb example of medieval Friulian sculpture, where the Patriarch **Beato Bertrando** (1350) was buried.

Oratorio della Purità

Piazza Duomo

Here one can admire the *L'Assunta* (1759), one of Venetian painter, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's major masterpieces.

Chiesa di San Francesco

Largo Ospedale Vecchio
tel. 0432 297954

Consecrated in 1266, it bears witness to the presence of the Franciscans in Friuli. 14th century frescoes decorate the triapsidal nave. Temporary exhibitions are currently held inside.

Palazzo Arcivescovile

Piazza Patriarcato
tel. 0432 25003

(Begun in 1610 and completed a century later) it houses the **Museo Diocesano** and the **Gallerie del Tiepolo** displaying a whole range of Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's work: on the staircase ceiling (*La caduta degli angeli ribelli*), in the gallery (*Abramo e gli angeli, l'Incontro fra Labano e Rachele e l'Angelo che appare a Sara, Giudizio di Salomone*) and in the airy rooms. The library is also of great value.

Galleria d'Arte Moderna

Piazzale Paolo Diacono, 22
tel. 0432 295891

Following Countess Astaldi's bequest, it became one of the most important galleries of modern art in Italy, with over 200 works by leading Italian artists in modern art.

Palazzo Valvasori Morpurgo

Via Savorgnana, 12

The main floor is decorated with frescoes by G.B. Canal and Giuseppe Borsato and is the centre of Museo del Progetto (Project Museum) and a section of the Galleria d'Arte Moderna (Gallery of Modern Art).

In the indoor garden, is a small lodge which is dominated by a cycle of statues.

Tempio Ossario

Piazzale XXVI Luglio

Built in 1931, this stately building is a mausoleum for twenty-five thousand soldiers who died in the First World War.

Santuario di Santa Maria delle Grazie

Piazza I Maggio

The present-day construction was built around 1730 and expanded in the mid-19th century. It is annexed to the convento dei Padri Serviti with a beautiful cloister and a real 15th century well.



In the surroundings of Udine

Places of great artistic and naturalistic interest can be reached in a radius of few kilometres from Udine.

CIVIDALE DEL FRIULI

(less than 20 minutes by car or train)

Founded in 53 BC by Caesar under the name of *Forum Julii*, hence Friuli, in 568 AD it became the seat of the first Lombard duchy.

Duomo

Its construction was begun in 1457 and it reached its present physiognomy after a series of interventions, hence the presence of three styles: Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. It houses one of the masterpieces of medieval Italian

goldsmith's art, "**La Pala d'argento di Pellegrino II**" which towers over the main altar. At each epiphany, the *Messa dello Spadone* rite is held (Broadsword mass, linked to the historical figure of the Aquileia Patriarch who exerted both spiritual and temporal power). Next to the duomo, the **Christian Museum** includes two



masterpieces of Lombard sculpture: the **Battistero di Callisto**, a 9th century octagonal aedicule, and the **ara di Ratchis**, a karst-stone altar decorated with bas-reliefs, a gift from Duke Ratchis.

Palazzo dei Provveditori

Piazza Duomo, 13
tel. 0432 700700

Designed by the famous Venetian architect, Andrea Palladio, and



built between 1581 and 1596, this is the present-day seat of the **Museo Archeologico Nazionale**, mostly known for its significant Lombard finds. *Gisulfo's tomb*, discovered in 1874, and the valuable goldsmith's art including the ivory, embossed silver, and gilded "*Pace del duca Orso*" are all of particular importance. It also contains very valuable miniated codices (*Salterio di Egberto* and *Salterio di Santa Elisabetta*, two psalters) and a tombstone dating back to the Roman age.

Casa Medievale

Stretta Santa Maria di Corte
The oldest house in Cividale.

Tempietto Longobardo

Borgo Brossana
tel. 0432 700867

The Tempietto, whose origins are uncertain, is famous for its stuccowork and frescoes,

decorations made in the mid-ninth century, and for its finely carved Gothic stalls.

Ipogeo Celtico

Via Monastero Maggiore
tel. 0432 710460

A place steeped in mystery, this complex of manmade caves, dug at various levels, is situated under a house, alongside the Natisone river. Some believe it was a Celtic burial ground, others a Roman



prison. The stunning 15th century **Ponte del Diavolo** (devil's bridge) over the Natisone river, is a symbol of the town. It was destroyed during the defeat of Caporetto and rebuilt by the Austrians in 1939.

VALLI DEL NATISONE

(about 30 minutes by car)
Castelmonte (Prepotto) stands out in its dominating position among the hills enclosing the Cividale plain.



This locality lies at circa 700 m above sea level and is well known for its famous **Marian sanctuary**. It is very old and still looks like a fortified village.

It was extended and adorned during the 16th century and has not changed since. (Board and lodging available). The striking **Chiesa di San Giovanni ad Antro** (Pulfero) was built in 1477 inside a **cave**. It can be reached after a 100-step climb. A 17th century Slovenian-style gilded wood *altar* and 16th century statues attributed to Giovanni Martini's bottega can be admired inside.

Topolò (Grimacco), is a village nestled in a splendid panoramic position. It is an example of rural town planning with houses of interesting spontaneous architecture. For the last few years, every July it has hosted an important international festival of art, music and theatre linked to the Mittelfest in Cividale. In the valleys, trenches and tunnels, the fortification ruins and military buildings are a real open-air Museum of the Great War.

TARCENTO

(25 minutes by car)

Surrounded by green hills, it rises up at the foot of the Julian Prealps, with elegant houses worth seeing along the Torre river were: *Palazzo Frangipane* (16th century) owned by the municipality, *Villa Moretti*,

a beautiful example of 20th century architecture and a venue for exhibitions, *Villa Pontoni*, known as "Palazàt", (16th century) and *Villa Valentinis* in the village of Collalto (18th century).

ALTA VAL TORRE

(about 30 minutes by car)

This is a very interesting natural setting offering rock climbing practice walls, circular trekking trails and the chance to fly high, steering a paraglider.

Grotte di Villanova

(Lusevera) These karst caves stretch for over six kilometres. They are easy to visit, along well-lit tourist paths, and area great attraction. The Museo Etnografico di Lusevera is also worth a visit.



SAN DANIELE DEL FRIULI

(25 minutes by car)

The main cultural and commercial centre of the hilly belt of Friuli. The town is known for its famous **prosciutto**, unique thanks to the special cool, airy microclimate. "*Aria di Festa*", an event dedicated to this prosciutto, attracts international interest.

Duomo

(1707-1725) of Palladian inspiration, it houses important masterpieces including paintings by Pomponio Amalteo. The adjacent *bell-tower* dates back to the 16th century.



Biblioteca Guarneriana

Via Roma, 10

tel. 0432 957930

The oldest public library (1466) in the region houses valuable miniated codices, including a 14th century copy of *Dante's Divine Comedy* and precious ancient volumes.



S. Antonio Abate

Via Garibaldi

It contains the most beautiful cycle of renaissance frescoes in Friuli, painted by Pellegrino da San Daniele between 1497 and 1522.



Museo del territorio

Via Udine, 2

tel. 0432 954484

The museum is housed in the 17th century cloister of the old hospital, formerly a Dominican convent. It has many interesting art finds.

FAGAGNA

(A twenty-minute drive)

The Museo della Vita Contadina "Cjase Cocel" illustrates the

conditions of peasant life in the first half of the last century. The *natural oasis at Quadris* is an experiment station for the reintroduction of the White Stork and the Ibis Eremita. The nearby *castello di Villalta* dates back to the 12th century and castello Arcano superiore at Rive d'Arcano is very picturesque. Golf Club Udine lies on the surrounding hills.

The nearby *castello di Colleredo di Monte Albano*

(14th century, the home of Ippolito Nievo, the author of 'Confessions of an Italian'), **Cassacco**

(15th century, very well preserved) and **Susans** (Majano - completed in the first

half of the 17th century) are all well worth a visit.

OSOPPO

(25 minutes by car)

On the hills is the Fortezza, which is made up of buildings from various historical periods. The view of the River Tagliamento course is magnificent.

BUJA

(25 minutes by car)

The home of many medal designers and the centre of the Museo d'Arte della Medaglia (Art Museum of Medals) in Borgo San Lorenzo in Monte.

VILLA MANIN DI PASSARIANO

(Codroipo - a 30-minute drive)

This is the most impressive example of Venetian villas in the region. A stately complex built from the mid-17th century, was the home of the last Venetian doge on Friulian soil. The building is flanked by two *barchesse*, or service buildings, decorated





by statues enclosing the large lawn bordered by two fishponds. Opposite is a large exedra with a tower at each end. Inside the villa, there are large palatial rooms with frescoes by Dorigny (*Trionfo della Primavera*) portraying allegories and mythological scenes. The right-hand barchesse house a *Exhibition of carriages*. The rear façade leads onto a large French-style park. Villa Manin now houses the **Centro d'Arte Contemporanea**, holding modern art exhibitions and promoting research and activities on art today.

CODROIPO

(a 30-minute drive)

The largest and most important town in the Province of Udine lies on the junction of two important Roman roads.

The Museo Archeologico

(Via Santa Maria Maggiore tel. 0432 820174) is housed in the very carefully renovated prison building dating back to the early 19th century. The exhibition displays a vast series of local finds ranging from the bronze age to the Renaissance and is constantly being enriched by new archaeological excavations.

The Museo delle Carrozze d'epoca

(Via San Pietro 6, tel. 0432 912493), the only national period carriage museum, has 44 carriages from various European and transatlantic countries. The collection is temporarily housed inside a disused factory before being transferred to Villa Kechler in San Martino in Codroipo. In the immediate outskirts of Codroipo lies the **Parco delle Risorgive**, a natural setting conserving some of the most untouched sites of the Friulian resurgences, which are among the most extended in Europe and are of great naturalist interest. In the surrounding villages, the *churches, votive chapels and rural hamlets* have kept their original framework. In the hamlets, large colonial houses have been built around the patrician villas or manor houses.

GEMONA

(35 minutes by car)

At the heart of Friuli, it is the symbol of the reconstruction carried out after the disastrous earthquake in 1976.



Some of the completely restored ancient monuments to admire include the **Palazzo del Comune**, with its harmonious Renaissance lines in Venetian-Lombard taste, built by Bartolomeo de Caprileis, known as Boton, in 1502; **Palazzo Elti** (15th century) centre of the Civic Museum (Via Bini tel. 0432 973258); **Casa Gurisatti** (15th century) with a triple lancet window and trilobal



arches, housing the Friuli film library; the former rectory which is now the centre of the **Parish Museum** and of the **Cathedral Treasure** and of the splendid **Cathedral**, one of the most impressive examples of religious Gothic-Romanesque architecture (Via Bini tel. 0432 980608). The Santuario di Sant'Antonio with the adjacent Raffaeli Museum (Piazza Osmalowski tel. 0432 971839).

In Ospedaletto: the small church of Ognissanti with frescoes from the XIV-XV century and Didattico Ambientale Mulino Cocconi (Cocconi Environmental

Education Mill) centre, with the Mill Art Museum (Largo Beorcje, 12 tel. 0432 972316).

VENZONE

(40 minutes by car)

A National Monument since

1965 and the only remaining walled citadel of the Middle Ages in the Region. The boundary walls with the S. Genesio door-tower, the **Municipal Building** in Gothic-Venetian style and the XVI century **cathedral**, which was restored after the 1976 earthquake using the anastilosi technique (stone by stone), are of great interest. The historical site of the famous **mummies** is next to the San Michele Chapel.



A pleasant walk with a panoramic view of the little town and the Tagliamento plain along the 14th century churches footpath.

BORDANO

(a 40-minute drive)

It lies on the lake of Cavazzo, and attracts butterfly lovers thanks to the thousands you find along the paths of monte San Simeone and the many others painted in murals by famous and amateur artists. A visit to the "*Casa delle Farfalle*", where the habitat of tropical forests has been recreated in one of the largest structures in Europe, is a must.



Pordenone/Tangenziale

Cividale-Slovenia

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Via Girardini, 22/24
Tel. 0432 271329
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Municipal Police/
Police Municipale/
Mestna policija

Carabinieri
Viale Venezia, 189
Pronto intervento Tel.112
Bereitschaftsdienst/
Public emergency
service/Urgences/
Center za obveščanje

Q Questura
Viale Venezia, 31
Tel. 0432 413111

HAzienda Ospedaliera
Santa Maria
della Misericordia
Tel. 0432 5521
Krankenhaus/Hospital/
Hôpital/Bolnišnica

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Via Vittorio Veneto, 42
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Stadio Friuli P.le Repubblica
Argentina - Rizzi
**Stadion/Stadium/Stade/
Stadion**

**Palazzo dello sport
Primo Carnera**
P.le Repubblica Argentina -
Rizzi
**Sportahalle/Indoor
stadium/Palais des
sports/Sportna dvorana**

Campo di Atletica
Via Torino, 47
Athletikplatz/Athletic field/
Terrain d'Athlétisme/
Atletski stadion

 **Teatro Nuovo**
Giovanni da Udine
Via Trento, 4
Tel.032 248411
Theater/Theatre/Théâtre/
Gledališće

Palamoste
P.le Paolo Diacono, 15
Tel. 0432 26929
Kunsthalle/Art Gallery/
Gymnase expo/Gledališče
Informagiovani
Viale Ungheria, 44/A

Tel. 0432 292329
Punto Informa
Palazzo Morpurgo
Via Savorgnana, 8
Tel. 0432 414717-18

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Viale Europa Unita, 31
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Flughafen Terminal/
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Aéroport/Letališki terminal

Aeroporto
Ronchi dei Legionari, Gorizia
(informazione voli)
Tel. 0481 773242
Flughafen (Auskünfte über Flüge)/International Airport (Flight Information)
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