

# FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

## THE HEAVENLY WAY On foot from Aquileia to Monte Lussari

WHERE AND HOW



**HOW TO GET THERE**

**CAR**  
 Motorways: A4 Tarvis - Trieste, A23 Palmanova - Udine - Tarvisio, A28 Portogruaro - Caneclano

**PLANE**  
 FVG International Airport: 40 km from Trieste and Udine, 15 km from Gorizia, 80 km from Pordenone

**TRAIN**  
 www.friulitalia.com, Call Center 83.20.21

**TOURIST INFORMATION**

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 www.turismo.fvg.it

+39 0431 387130

QR code and social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, FVG TV)

## The Heavenly Way Friuli Venezia Giulia recounts itself

The Heavenly Way joins Aquileia, the titular place of a glorious patriarchate with a thousand-year history, to Monte Lussari in the heart of the Julian Alps, on top of which a Marian Shrine was built; about 200 kilometres long, it takes about ten days to go along, above all on tracks, country lanes and mountain trails.

The Way allows the hiker to enjoy the enchanting landscape of Friuli Venezia Giulia in all its transformations, from the sea to the mountains.



Grado, Aquileia, Collio, Shrine on Monte Lussari



Aquileia, Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta

Prologue  
**BARBARA, GRADO, SAN MARCO, PINEWOOD, AQUILEIA**

**THE ROUTE**

Starting point: Island of Barbana  
 Arrival point: Aquileia  
 Difference in height: negligible  
 Length: 10.3 km.

**Not to be missed:**  
 On the island of Barbana is the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin. Even when it is misty, from the road that leads to Grado you can glimpse the bell tower and the outline of the dome, which seem to emerge from the sea. Historically it is known that it was the patriarch of Grado, Ela, that had the first church built on the island to house the relic of the Virgin Mary (572 AD).



Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Castelmonte



First stage  
**AQUILEIA,  
AIELLO DEL FRIULI**



**THE ROUTE**

**Starting point:** Aquileia  
**Arrival point:** Aielo del Friuli  
**Difference in height:** negligible  
**Length:** 16.6 km.

**Not to be missed:**

The **patriarchal basilica** dedicated to the Mother of God and Saints Ermacora and Fortunato. From the wonderful floor mosaic done at the behest of Bishop Teodoro (early fourth century) to the Poppone bell tower, the building bears witness to an unbroken tradition of faith. Observe, hanging on the wall to the left, the Christ of Rain (Al Crist da ploja - in Friulan). At one time it had the honour of standing at the high altar, but now it is at the perpetual preferred altar of the dead, against the wall to the left of the entrance.



Aquileia, Crypt of frescoes



Second stage  
**AIELLO DEL FRIULI,  
CORMONS**



**THE ROUTE**

**Starting point:** Aielo del Friuli  
**Arrival point:** Cormons  
**Difference in height going up:** 140 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 140 m.  
**Length:** 18 km.

**Not to be missed:**

At Aielo del Friuli the **over eighty sundials**, the gnomonic monuments - stone, iron, mosaic and glass: this is officially recognized as a village of sundials.



San Floriano del Collio



Third stage  
**CORMONS,  
CASTELMONTE**



**THE ROUTE**

**Starting point:** Cormons  
**Arrival point:** Castelmonte  
**Difference in height going up:** 930 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 350 m.  
**Length:** 23.2 km.

**Not to be missed:**

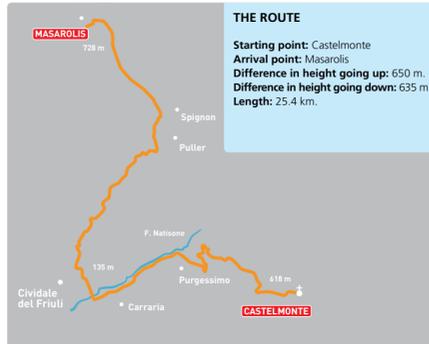
The **Sant'Adalberto cathedral** in Cormons from the middle of the eighteenth century. An interesting feature is the presence of St. James, on the high altar, next to Mary of the Assumption among the angels and Sant'Adalberto (martyr bishop). When you enter look at the stone slab at the entrance: from there one could access the basement (with twenty funeral cells with mummified remains dating back to the late seventeenth century). Its bell tower, after that of Aquileia, is among the highest in the Archdiocese of Gorizia.



Castelmonte



Fourth stage  
**CASTELMONTE,  
MASAROLIS**



**THE ROUTE**

**Starting point:** Castelmonte  
**Arrival point:** Masarolis  
**Difference in height going up:** 650 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 635 m.  
**Length:** 25.4 km.

**Not to be missed:**

The old **Castelmonte shrine** (Madone di Mont, in Friulan). Since 1175 it has been a destination for pilgrims. The current statue venerated in the church is not the original. The previous one - hidden in time of war, and even stripped of its precious jewels - mysteriously disappeared, so it

was redone later, but in painted limestone (it is not clear why it was done with a dark complexion, unlike the original). Coming down from the mountain we enter the ancient Forum Iuli (Civitate del Friuli), founded in the first century BC by the Romans and in 568 occupied by the Lombards of King Alboin.



Fifth stage  
**MASAROLIS,  
MONTEMAGGIORE**



**THE ROUTE**

**Starting point:** Masarolis  
**Arrival point:** Montemaggiore  
**Difference in height going up:** 1020 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 635 m.  
**Length:** 22.7 km.



interesting feature is Mary's face, with traits typical of the women of this valley. Another particular feature is the gesture of her hand. Go and fetch water from the fountain in the village; it will surprise you to see the lion of St. Mark in stone inside an iron cage. It is a protest of the inhabitants of Masarolis who saw "their" water taxed by the Venetians, so they "imprisoned" the symbol of the latter.

**Not to be missed:**

At Masarolis you can visit the "Nivium B.M. Virgini Dicitum" **parish church**. Note the wooden statue of the Madonna with Child (1899): an



Valbruna



Sixth stage  
**MONTEMAGGIORE,  
A.N.A. SHELTER  
MONTEPERTA**

**THE ROUTE**  
**Starting point:** Montemaggiore  
**Arrival point:** A.N.A. Shelter - Gran Monte  
**Difference in height going up:** 1280m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 610 m.  
**Length:** 15.7 km.



**Not to be missed:**

Going from Cornappo to Lusevera, on a slope of the mountain, on the right, a church appears: it is the **Santissima Trinita church**. You get to it along a short road that starts around a bend to the right. Starting from the church, going along another 200 metres of gravel road you reach the place where it is said that the Virgin Mary appeared in 1241, leaving as a sign her footprint - still clearly visible - on a big rock.



Seventh stage  
**A.N.A. SHELTER  
MONTEPERTA,  
PRATO DI RESIA**

**THE ROUTE**  
**Starting point:** A.N.A. Shelter - Monteperta  
**Arrival point:** Prato di Resia  
**Difference in height going up:** 530 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 1505 m.  
**Length:** 15.7 km.



**Not to be missed:**

In **Carnizza Sella**, there is a **church dedicated to Our Lady and Saint Anne**. It was built in the nineteenth century and restored several times, especially after the 1976 earthquake. The people of Resia, respecting an old tradition, go there in a procession on the last Saturday in May and on the Saturday closest to 26th July. Carnizza is a name of Celtic origin.



Monte Lussari Shrine



Eighth stage  
**PRATO DI RESIA,  
DOGNA**

**THE ROUTE**  
**Starting point:** Prato di Resia  
**Arrival point:** Dogna  
**Difference in height going up:** 430 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 430 m.  
**Length:** 13.4 km.



**Not to be missed:**

In Prato di Resia you find the **Santa Maria Assunta church**, dating back to the eighteenth century. The old church was enlarged between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, but the oldest document indicating its foundation (Santa Maria sul Prato) is from 1098. The church suffered severe damage in 1976, so it was restored. On the portal you read: "Hic ne vade nisi dixeris Ave." ("From here do not go without saying Ave"), dated 1713 and then "renovated" in 1730. Inside you can see the Lord's Prayer written in Resia dialect. Just past the church there are the fourteen stations of the Via Crucis, which lead to the little Calvario church, which dates back to 1818 and was restored after 1976.



Ninth stage  
**DOGNA,  
VALBRUNA**

**THE ROUTE**  
**Starting point:** Dogna  
**Arrival point:** Valbruna  
**Difference in height going up:** 1085 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 700 m.  
**Length:** 27.1 km.



**Not to be missed:**

An interesting feature is the **Museum of the Territory**, proving that Dogna is a place with a very ancient history. This is testified to by a prehistoric footprint. That's right: on the bed of the river Dogna there were found by chance, a dozen years ago, the footprints of a phytosaur (a prehistoric animal that lived 210 million years

ago). The museum consists of three sections: the paleontological one, the historical one and the ethnographic one. In addition there is also a section devoted to the Dogna painter Fred Pittino.



Tenth stage  
**VALBRUNA,  
MONTE LUSSARI**

**THE ROUTE**  
**Starting point:** Valbruna  
**Arrival point:** Monte Lussari  
**Difference in height going up:** 990 m.  
**Difference in height going down:** 30 m.  
**Length:** 11.4 km.



**Not to be missed:**

**Monte Lussari** and above all what you see from its peak. Enjoy the Shrine, built in the fourteenth century, then enlarged and adapted over the centuries, with rebuilding of the parts damaged by wars. But above all there is

