

Territori/Territories Project



www.territori.it

Do you fancy knowing everything about the multiform cultural, historical, naturalistic heritage of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region with its food and wine traditions all in a nutshell?

Would you like to discover its most picturesque and hidden away landscapes? By surfing through this site, you'll find several answers to those questions.

Let yourself be guided along the network of narrow streets among fields, along grapevine rows or along the riverbanks by **Territories**. It'll be like getting into – as if by magic – big book of the History of Europe.

If you are surfing from the North – from Austria or Germany – or from the East – from Slovenia or Croatia – or even from the nearby Veneto and the rest of Italy, this northern corner of the country will undoubtedly let you sense an intense and persistent Mitteleuropean scent.

The site "Territory" is increasing. We'll be grateful to you if you could underline any possible mistake, omission or surfing troubles you might encounter, by writing to the following address: info@territori.it

THE PROJECT

Territories deals with a vast area, divided into four environments (The Lagoon, the Lands of the River Isonzo, the Karst uplands and the Collio Hills), which can represent a synthesis of most of the landscapes of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region.

Once having visited the old Aquileia or the nice town of Gradisca d'Isonzo, and having walked through the "campielli" and the "androne" on the island of Grado or along the streets in Villa Vicentina, **Territories** will help you know this peculiar part of Italy better. It'll do it "on tiptoes", by suggesting some simple tourist routes and leaving you free to discover the area.

THE LAGOON

Situated among the mouths of the Rivers Tagliamento and Isonzo, the Lagoon of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region formed itself some 6,000 years ago, in a post-glaciation period, because of the rising of the sea level.

It consists of two different areas – that of Marano and that of Grado – and it stretches for about 32 kilometres with an average width of 5 kilometres.

Swept by a gusty wind called "bora" in winter and being scorching hot in summertime with very high water temperatures, the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Lagoon represents an important biological mine that provides life and jobs to many fishermen and fish farms.

Behind the Lagoon, in the area commonly known as the "Friulian Low Plane", but generally in every corner of this land, some isolated small churches can be frequently seen. They are real strongboxes of art which, together with stone-built houses situated on the fringe with woods or cultivated lands, witness the very ancient presence of man.

A peculiar micro universe, worth knowing in a closer way.

THE RIVER ISONZO

Just a few miles away from the island of Grado, the River Isonzo flows into the Adriatic sea – characterising the whole land stretching from the city of Gorizia as far as the sea. It is actually called the "Isontino".



▲ Cervignano, il municipio.

◀ Strassoldo, chiesa di Santa Maria in Vineis.

It is not a big river (in the sense that it is only 123 Kms long, 40 Kms are in the Italian territory) but is perhaps the main protagonist for the history of these lands. Actually, the different armies that left their inerasable marks upon them, forded through the easiest spots of the river (as in the village of Cassegliano – San Pier d'Isonzo). In this way, the Turks invaded the area and then they proceeded further down in the Friulian countryside, or, like the Republican French troops led by Napoleon.

Although the whole of the river path allows one to enjoy those landscapes of rare beauty, it is to be stressed the area situated at its mouth, known with the topos “Cona Island” consisting of a wide wet zone which has been transformed into in a natural park open to visitors.

THE KARST UPLAND

The horizon of these areas in the East is characterised by a sequence of wavy lines: they are the low calcareous hills of the Karst, covered by an alternate movement of grey (the colour of the calcareous stone), of green (woods, bushes and grass) and the unique, red and brown nuances of the Karst stones.

They are humble hills, which have been inhabited since the prehistoric times (a few “castellieri” are still visible today) and which look stony and bare at first sight, but they have a terrific natural vitality. Actually, thanks to the trespassing of wild animals and flora from the East of Europe, nature here is very flourishing

As the Karst upland, especially during the First World War, was the stage of dramatic and bloodshed fights, several walking pathways – known as the “Pathways of Peace” - have been created today, along the wide network of trenches and fortifications which bear testimony to many heroic actions and suffering during the First World War. And this is to underline the diffuse willingness of peace among people as well as their peaceful living together.

THE COLLIO

The Collio that – many of you will know just because it is a world-wide famous wine producing area – consists of a very sweet landscape of green hills stretching far away among clusters of houses, grapevine rows, isolated churches and robinia woods. The hills gradually rise from the plane as far as reaching an altitude of (274 metres) of Mount Quarin in Cormòns and an altitude of (277 metres) of San Floriano.

The area has been inhabited since proto-historical times, it is rich in historical vestige and is crossed by a thick network of asphalted roads that allow for an easy view of it.

THE THEMATIC ROUTES

The thematic routes of the project total nine and there are several ways of travelling along them: by car, bicycle, boat or on horseback.

Currently the enactment status of the project implies the definition of three thematic routes that can be visited by car and/or bike.

*Giassico di Cormòns,
chiesa di Santo Stefano.*

