



DISCOVER
FVG



TORNEO DELLE
NAZIONI

CALCIO GIOVANILE PER NAZIONALI

XIX edition





DISCOVER FVG



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INTRO

Questa pubblicazione nasce come utile supporto alle delegazioni delle squadre partecipanti alla XIX^a edizione del Torneo delle Nazioni Città di Gradisca d'Isonzo al fine di far conoscere il territorio del **Friuli Orientale**, ricco di storia e tradizioni, compreso tra le suggestive colline del Collio e del Carso con i luoghi sacri delle battaglie, la pianura friulana ed il Mare Adriatico, **una terra dove si fondono le culture italiana, slava e tedesca.**

Dall'insediamento di Roma ad Aquileia alle vicende del '900 che hanno segnato il confine orientale e la città di Gorizia, il percorso descritto in queste pagine toccherà **sette località che offrono la possibilità di scoprire delle autentiche perle turistiche e culturali che rivelano la ricchezza e le tradizioni enogastronomiche di questa terra.**

Partiamo da **Gorizia**, il capoluogo dell'isontino impreziosito dalla cultura mitteleuropea, **città millenaria con il suo possente castello medievale** edificato nell'XI° secolo situato sull'altura che sovrasta la località, il castello offre una spettacolare vista panoramica di Gorizia e del territorio circostante. La città, segnata duramente dalle

vicende della Prima Guerra Mondiale e successivamente dalla Guerra Fredda che per cinquant'anni ha diviso Gorizia da Nova Gorica, **nel 2025 sarà protagonista, unitamente a Nova Gorica, in veste di Capitale europea della Cultura.**

La transfrontalierità è una vocazione di questa terra, dove il dialogo negli ultimi decenni è diventato una costante che ha eliminato nel tempo le barriere confinarie tracciate dalla politica dopo la fine della Seconda Guerra Mondiale.

Scendiamo lungo la strada che costeggia il percorso del fiume Isonzo, ai piedi del Carso, ed arriviamo a **Gradisca d'Isonzo, la fortezza fondata nel XV° secolo dalla Repubblica di Venezia** per contrastare le invasioni turche, passata in seguito, dal 1511 al 1919, all'Impero Austro-Ungarico.

La città è caratterizzata ai giorni nostri dalla verde spianata arborea, dalle possenti mura e torrioni a sua difesa, dal castello e dagli eleganti palazzi che le hanno fatto attribuire il titolo di salotto barocco dell'isontino.

Proseguiamo attraversando il fiume Isonzo e ci portiamo a **Monfalcone**, sovrastata dall'**antica Rocca medievale**, dinamica ed operosa città con il suo **prestigioso cantiere** costruito più di cento anni fa dalla famiglia Cosulich, destinato a lasciare una traccia nella storia dell'industria navale italiana, grazie, soprattutto, alle navi passeggeri, che solcano i mari di tutto il mondo.

Nei pressi del cantiere, nel vecchio Albergo Impiegati, trova collocazio-

ne il **MUCA, Museo della Cantieristica**, che racconta la storia e le vicende che hanno determinato la crescita della città.

Ci spostiamo nuovamente nella pianura friulana a **Cervignano del Friuli, importante centro emporiale**, con i suoi **suggestivi borghi e piccoli castelli come quello di Strassoldo**, che ci narrano le vicende del periodo della dominazione veneziana in Friuli e a pochi chilometri, verso il mare Adriatico, raggiungiamo **Aquileia, importantissima città fondata dai romani** che per lungo tempo è stata uno **snodo commerciale e portuale importantissimo** dove arrivavano e partivano le merci per le terre dell'Impero.

Aquileia, **patrimonio dell'UNESCO**, si presenta con la straordinaria **Basilica Patriarcale impreziosita dai bellissimi mosaici** e da un ricco patrimonio archeologico e museale.

Proseguendo verso il mare raggiungiamo **Grado, la splendida isola del sole** che, con la sua incantevole

laguna e le numerose isole, è da 140 anni **prestigiosa meta turistica** con la storica spiaggia d'impianto asburgico, **le terme marine ed il romantico centro storico** dove, circondata da un dedalo di viuzze, troneggia la **Basilica paleocristiana di Sant'Eufemia**.

A chiusura di questo percorso, costeggiando la riviera del Golfo di **Trieste**, arriviamo al **Castello di Miramare**.

Il complesso, circondato da un ampio parco, fu originariamente costruito tra il 1856 e il 1860 sul promontorio vicino alla baia di Grignano come **dimora di Massimiliano d'Asburgo** e dal quale l'Imperatore del Messico partì il 14 aprile 1864 per la sua tragica destinazione sudamericana.

Si respira la storia in questo territorio, sobrio ed elegante, accogliente e ricco di sorprese.

Benvenuti in Friuli Venezia Giulia!



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INTRO

This publication was created as a useful support for the delegations of the teams participating in the 19th edition of the Torneo Delle Nazioni Città Gradisca d'Isonzo. It aims to make known the territory of **Eastern Friuli**, rich in history and traditions, located among the suggestive hills of the Collio and Karst with its sacred places of battles, the plain of Friuli and the Adriatic Sea. **A land where Italian, Slavic and German cultures come together.**

From the settlement of Rome in Aquileia to the events of the 20th century which shaped the eastern border and the city of Gorizia, the itinerary described in these pages will touch seven locations. **These offer the opportunity to discover authentic tourist and cultural gems that reveal the richness of this land and its gastronomic traditions.**

We start in **Gorizia**, the capital of the Isonzo area enhanced by Mitteleuropean culture. **A thousand-year-old city with its mighty medieval castle** built in the 11th century and located on the hill above the town. The castle offers a spectacular panoramic view of Gorizia and the surrounding area.

The city, severely wounded by the events of the First World War and later by the Cold War, which divided Gorizia from Nova Gorica for fifty years, **will in 2025 be a cultural protagonist, together with Nova Gorica, as the European Capital of Culture.**

The cross-border nature is a vocation of this territory, where dialogue in recent decades has become a constant that has broken down the border barriers drawn by politics after the end of World War II.

We follow the road along the course of the River Isonzo, at the foot of the Karst, and arrive at **Gradisca d'Isonzo**. **This fortress was founded in the 15th century by the Republic of Venice** to counter Turkish invasions and was later passed to the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1511 to 1919. Nowadays, the town is characterised by its green arboreal esplanade, the massive walls and towers defending it, the castle and the elegant palaces that have earned it the title of the Baroque lounge of the Isonzo area.

We continue across the river Isonzo to **Monfalcone**. This dynamic and industrious city, overlooked by **the ancient medieval fortress**, is home to its **prestigious shipyard** built more than a hundred years ago by the Cosulich family. The yard was destined to leave a mark in the history of the Italian shipbuilding industry, thanks, above all, to the passenger ships sailing the seas all over the world. Located near the shipyard, in the old Albergo Impiegati, is the MuCa, the Shipbuilding Museum, which narra-

tes the history and events that led to the growth of the city.

As we return to the plains of Friuli, we reach **Cervignano del Friuli**, an **important emporium centre**, with its **picturesque villages and small castles such as Strassoldo**, which portray the events of the period of Venetian domination in Friuli. A few kilometres away, towards the Adriatic Sea, we find **Aquileia**, an extremely important city **founded by the Romans**, which for a long time was **a crucial commercial and port hub** where goods arrived and departed for the lands of the Empire. Aquileia, a **UNESCO heritage site**, features **the extraordinary Patriarchal Basilica with its impressive mosaics** and a rich archaeological and museum legacy.

Continuing towards the sea we reach **Grado**, **the beautiful island of the sun**, with its enchanting lagoon and numerous islands, a **prestigious tourist destination** for the last 140

years. Standing out are the Hapsburg-style historic beach, the **marine thermal baths and the romantic historic centre** dominated by the early **Christian Basilica of Saint Euphemia**, which is surrounded by a maze of narrow alleys.

As we come to the end of this journey, along the Riviera of the Gulf of **Trieste**, we arrive at **Miramare Castle**.

The complex, framed by a large park, was originally built between 1856 and 1860 on the promontory near the bay of Grignano as **the residence of Maximilian of Habsburg**. From here, the Emperor of Mexico departed on 14 April 1864 to a tragic South American fate.

You can breathe the history in this territory, sober and elegant, friendly and full of surprises. **Welcome to Friuli Venezia Giulia!**





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WORTH SEEING:

Castle
Corinini Cronberg Palace
Great War Museum
Fashion Museum
Church of St Ignatius
Metropolitan Cathedral of Saints Hilary and Tatian
Provincial Museums
Victory Square and Rastello Street

GORIZIA

A small and pleasant city, where the Habsburg past still lives on in the palaces and gardens, **Gorizia is a symbol of the troubled European history of the 20th century.**

As part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire before the Great War, and annexed by Italy in 1918, it experienced first-hand the dramatic events involving Italy's eastern border during Fascism and World War II.

At the end of the conflict, it lost part of its periphery to the former Yugoslavia and was divided by the so-called '**Gorizia Wall**', erected in the Transalpine Square. **The wall became one of the symbols of the political-ideological separation between Western and Eastern Europe** during the Cold War years.

The dividing fence was torn down when Slovenia joined the European Union in 2004 and **nowadays the border represents, on the contrary, an element of unity.** It is precisely in the name of friendship and cooperation between Gorizia and Nova Gorica that the two cities have been chosen, together, as **the European Capital of Culture 2025.**

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WORTH SEEING:

Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia
Luigi Spazzapan Regional Gallery of Modern Art
Fortified bastions and towers
Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul
Merchants' Loggia
Maccari House Museum
Church of Our Lady of Sorrows

GRADISCA

Considered among the most beautiful villages in Italy, it was conceived and built as a **fortified town**. In the square stands the theatre and along the arcades the typical cafés, from which one can admire the park and the palaces with their **Venetian and Habsburg charm**.

Surrounded by greenery and narrating a history of over nine centuries, this is how Gradisca d'Isonzo presents itself to the visitor. A noble town that, especially from the 16th century onwards, **played a key role in the defence system set up by the Venetian Republic** against Turkish invasions.

As a matter of fact, the Serenissima powerfully fortified it, so much so that the historic centre of **Gradisca was enclosed in 1479 by a mighty city wall**. Gradisca's significant architectural heritage grew with particular momentum under the **Princes of Eggenberg**, between the 17th and 18th centuries, when the transformation from a town into **the Princely County of Gradisca** was well under way.

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WORTH SEEING:
Medieval Fortress
Palaeontological Museum
MuCa, the Shipbuilding Museum
The Great War Theme Park
the Dolina dei Bersaglieri

The open-air museum of San Martino del Carso
The open-air museum of Monte San Michele

MONFALCONE

Monfalcone is not only an **important industrial centre**. The city also reveals unusual historical facets, such as its **medieval Fortress**, a symbolic monument of the city. It houses the Palaeontological Museum, which displays findings **illustrating geological history from 500 million years ago**.

Of particular interest is the **MuCa, the Shipbuilding Museum**, which narrates the history of the shipyard and the city through an exhibition itinerary divided into sections. Over a century of history illustrated using contemporary language and the latest multimedia technology. Located next to the shipyards where **the world's most beautiful cruise ships** are still being built today, the Museum provides an immersive experience in a productive and vivid industrial reality.

In the surroundings of Monfalcone, **the Great War Theme Park** is particularly impressive. Visitors can dive into the period between 1915 and 1918 and walk among trenches and walkways.

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WORTH SEEING:

Strassoldo di Sopra e di Sotto Castle
Cathedral
Mother Church of San Michele Arcangelo
Villa Chiozza
Villa Bresciani
Chapel of the Holy Cross
Church of Santa Maria in Vineis
MAVI

CERVIGNANO

The history of Cervignano del Friuli is inextricably linked to the events of Aquileia, as at the time of the founding of the great Roman metropolis, its territories were ceded to a noble patrician.

In 568, the occupation of the area by **King Alboin's Longobards** coincided with the foundation of what was to become **the oldest abbey of Benedictine monks in Friuli, the Abbey of San Michele Arcangelo**. This was eventually destroyed during the 10th century after repeated assaults by barbarian populations.

The fate of the inhabitants of the area was restored only by the **Benedictine nuns of the Monastery of St. Mary of Aquileia**, to whom the Patriarchate had donated the swampy and unproductive Cervignano territory. The nuns were able to carry out a reclamation and repopulation programme that brought life back to the area.

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- Basilica of St Mary of the Assumption
- National Early Christian Museum
- National Archaeological Museum
- Südhalle
- Roman Forum
- River Port
- Domus and Episcopal Palace
- Sepulchre

AQUILEIA

One of the main cities of the **Roman Empire**, founded in 181 BC as a military colony on the banks of the River Natisone, navigable at the time, a few kilometres from the sea. **Aquileia is an outstanding example of a perfectly preserved ancient Roman city.** During its period of greatest splendour, this frontier city became **one of the capitals of the Roman Empire** and was one of the most active and **influential Paleo-Crestian communities** in Europe.

It has been a **UNESCO site** since 1998 for **the importance of its archaeological area and the beauty of the floor mosaics** it preserves. Of all of them, the greatest and best known is the one in the **Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta**, dating back to the 4th century. Along with this, there are other precious mosaic remains from the Roman and early Christian periods, making Aquileia a sort of Roman mosaic capital of the West.

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WORTH SEEING:

Basilica of St Euphemia
Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie
Sanctuary of Barbana
Nazario Sauro Promenade
Baptistery
House of Music
Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta
Remains of the Basilica della Corte

GRADO

Grado is an elegant seaside town with an old **historic centre of Venetian charm** that reveals itself among the small squares and alleys overlooked by picturesque fishermen's houses. In the old town, in **Campo dei Patriarchi**, the scene is dominated by the **Basilica of Santa Eufemia** and the adjacent **Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie**, the oldest in Grado. It is known as **the island of the sun**, because its three kilometres of the south-facing beach are never in the shade and also because, thanks to its special microclimate, the sun never fails to shine here.

Once part of the domains of the **Austro-Hungarian Empire**, Grado was much loved by the Habsburg aristocracy who, as early as the 19th century, came to the island for **the baths and the prized marine spas**. To this day they still combine health and beauty and are the ideal spot to revitalise body and spirit.

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WORTH SEEING:
Miramare Castle
Piazza Unità d'Italia
The Molo Audace
The Greek-Orthodox church of San Nicolò
Cathedral of San Giusto Martyr
San Giusto Castle
Science Centre Immaginario Scientifico
Revoltella Museum
The San Sabba Rice Mill

TRIESTE

Beautiful and cultured, Trieste is **the most cosmopolitan city in Italy**. Its glorious Habsburg past can still be breathed and its Mitteleuropean and Mediterranean soul can be easily sensed in the **crossroads of languages, peoples and religions** that still characterise it. The heart of the city is **the most beautiful and symbolic of its squares**, today dedicated to the Unification of Italy. The buildings facing it are a perfect synthesis of Trieste's history.

The **Miramare Castle and Park** is among the most beautiful castles in Europe. Located close to the regional capital of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trieste, it retains most of the original furnishings and decorations. The castle was commissioned by **Arch-duke Ferdinand Maximilian of Habsburg** in the second half of the 19th century as a residence for him and his wife, Charlotte of Belgium. Surrounded by a botanical garden, with suggestive panoramic views thanks to its position on a cliff overlooking **the Gulf of Trieste**, it is a **delightful combination of medieval, Renaissance and Gothic styles**.

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FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA TWO WHEELS, INFINITE WAYS

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