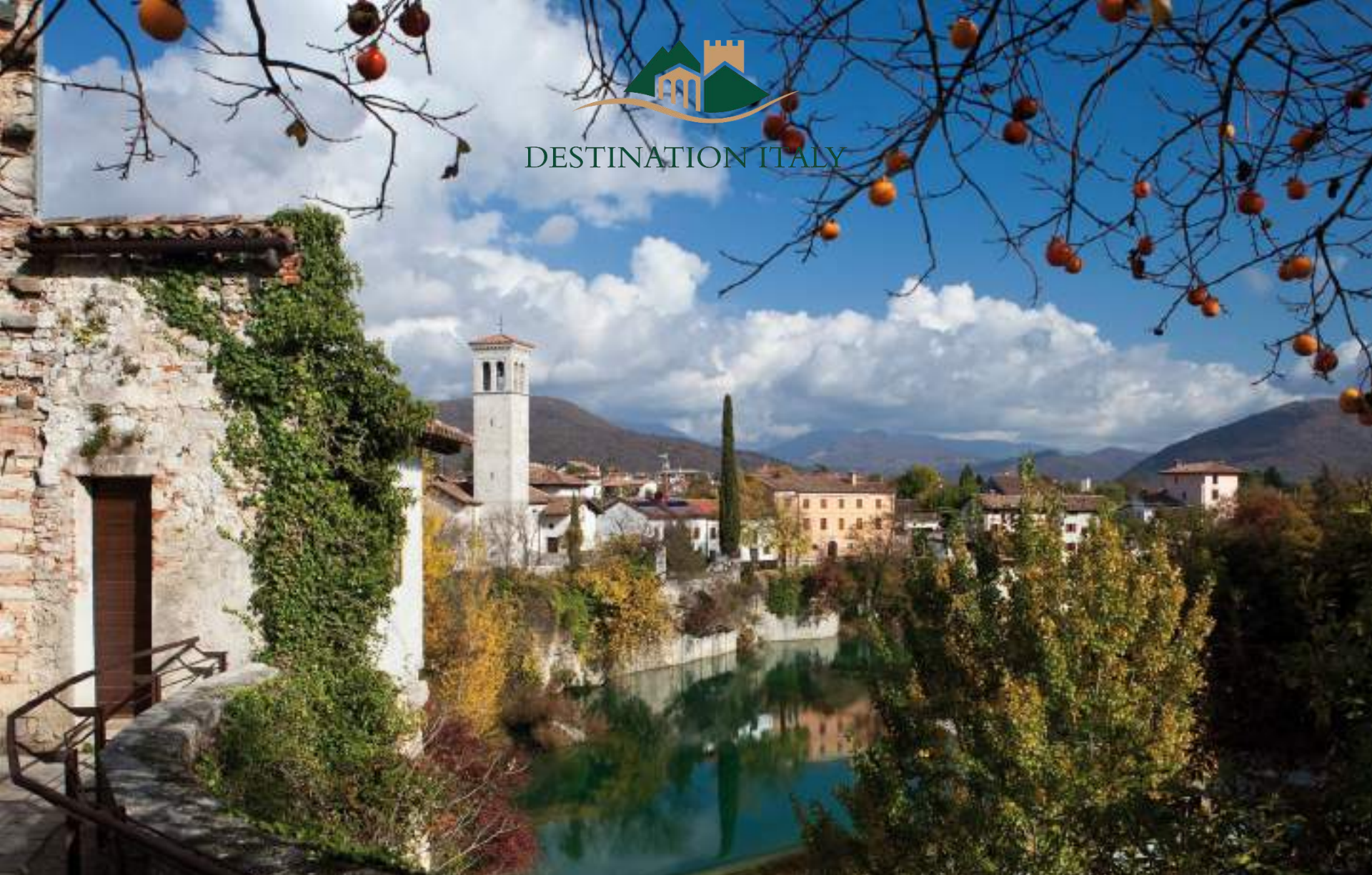




DESTINATION ITALY



FRIULI REGION AND THE ANCIENT AQUILEIA

Cultural Itineraries

FRIULI REGION AND THE ANCIENT AQUILEIA

Situated in the extreme part of Northeast Italy, next to Slovenia and Austria, Friuli Venezia Giulia embraces the Adriatic Sea and is surrounded by majestic mountains. This region is full of different landscapes, such as the majestic high plateau of Carso, panoramas of high mountains of West Dolomites, Carnia and Julian Alps, lakes, valleys and protected areas.

For a wide range of landscapes, there is a rich and variegated cultural heritage, determined by a complex history and influence of many cultures.

Trieste, the capital of the region, has got many interesting Byzantine mosaics, Roman ruins and elegant buildings of the Habsburg age.

However, the pearl is undoubtedly Udine.

Tracks of the Roman Empire can be found here, in Aquileia, bastion against the barbaric population invasions, commercial center, point of departure of expeditions and military conquests.

Aquileia is one of the main witnesses of the ancient Roman greatness.



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Day 1 · Venice-Udine

Arrival in Venice, assistance and private transfer to the hotel in Udine for lunch. In the afternoon guided walking tour of Udine.

The city is known as *The City of Tiepolo* since it hosts the masterpieces of the artist and his son, dated to the 18th Century. Have the pleasure to admire some of his most astonishing paintings in the cathedral and in the Purity Oratorio.

Proceed to the old town, to the Liberty Square, the Old Market and Matteotti Square.

After the visit, free time at disposal. Free time for dinner.



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Day 2 · Aquileia and Grado

Visit to the old town of **Aquileia**, an ancient Roman port city founded in 81 A. C. and seat of the Legio X Venetia et Histria.

During the first centuries of Christianity, it was the fourth major city of Italy. The important river port on Natissa River was the departure of the traffic to the Danube area.

Visit to the archeological site with the Patriarchal Basilica and its early Christians mosaics, the baptistery and the two crypts. Proceed to the residential neighborhood, founded 2.000 years ago. Lunch. During the afternoon, visit to the old town of the seaside and thermal resort of **Grado**, where there will be the possibility to visit St. Eufemia Basilica and St. Mary of Graces, the early Christians Baptistery and the excavation area of the third basilica. Return to Udine. Free dinner.



DESTINATION ITALY

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Day 3 · Trieste

Breakfast.

Visit to Trieste, the capital of the region.

The Bora, the characteristic wind which blows each bit of fog, confers to the city a unique brightness.

Trieste was the soearehead of the Habsburg Empire, as well as a Babel of languages and cultures.

Start the tour in the wonderful park and picturesque Miramare Castle, which nowadays hosts the Historical Museum, but in the past was a private home.

Continue the visit to the city, admiring Porto Vecchio, Borgo Teresiano, Rive, Piazza Unittà d'Italia, Porto Nuovo, Risiera di San Sabba (monument of national interest), Collina di San Giusto with panoramic view. Lunch.

In the afternoon, walking tour in the old town, Piazza Verdi, Piazza della Borsa and the Jewish ghetto.

Return to Udine.

Free dinner.



DESTINATION ITALY

FRIULI REGION AND THE ANCIENT AQUILEIA

Day 4 • Spilimbergo, Passariano and Palmanova

Situated in the heart of Friuli, halfway between the Adriatic coasts and the mountains, the city of **Spilimbergo** rises.

Visit to the picturesque old town with its Romanesque Gothic cathedral, the ancient village and the Castle.

This city had a great splendor during the Middle Age and the Renaissance. The urban development of those days is untouched, full of porticos, alleys, squares, buildings with frescos and innumerable masterpieces of art in the churches. Proceed with the visit to the famous Mosaicist Masters School of "Friuli", with demonstration of the ancient and new technique of the moosaic.

Proceed to **Passariano de Codroipo** to visit Villa Manin, one of the most prestigious residences of the whole region, home of the last doge of Venice.

Lunch.

During the afternoon, visit to the astonishing **Palmanova fortress city**. The city was conceived as a war machine and projected to withstand the attacks of the enemys.

The building of the city started on 7th October 1593 and was part of Venice Republic till 1797, when it was conquered by Napoleon Bonaparte.

From 1866, through a referendum, it finally joined the Reign of Italy.

Return to Udine.

Free dinner.



DESTINATION ITALY

FRIULI REGION AND THE ANCIENT AQUILEIA



Day 5 • Gemona, Venzone and San Daniele

Breakfast.

Visit to **Gemona** which symbolize the character of Friuli people: tenacious and working.

Between the 13th and the 14th Century, this city was an important commercial centre under the patriarchy of Aquileia.

Visit to the wonderful Gothic building of the Cathedral (13th-14th Century), decorated with astonishing low relieves, rich of masterpieces of art inside. Visit to Palazzo del comune and its peculiar Bini street.

Proceed to **Venzone del Friuli**. Visit to the 14th Century cathedral and the city hall square. Visit to the photo exhibition and Tiere Motus Museum, where there is the possibility to admire the devastating power of the great earthquake and see the reconstructed buildings.

Lunch.

During the afternoon, visit to **San Daniele del Friuli** where the little Sistine Chapel of Friuli is situated, full of Renaissance frescoes. Visit to the a local factory, where the famous **San Daniele ham** is produced.

Return to Udine.

Free dinner.



DESTINATION ITALY

FRIULI REGION AND THE ANCIENT AQUILEIA

Day 6 · Cividale and Gorizia

Breakfast.

Cividale hosts important Lombard testimonies, such as the Tempietto, one of the most extraordinary and mysterious place of the east Medieval architecture.

Visit to the National Archeological Museum and stroll through the old town to the renowned bridge of the devil.

Lunch.

In the afternoon, panoramic tour by bus to reach **Gorizia**, in order to visit the Casa Rossa la Piazza Transalpina. Admire the marvellous Hapsburg train station and the Medioeval castle.

Return to Udine.

Free dinner.



DESTINATION ITALY

FRIULI REGION AND THE ANCIENT AQUILEIA



Day 7 · Udine-Venice

Breakfast.

During the morning, free time at disposal, till the time of the transfer.

Private transfer to Venice Airport.

End of the experience.



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