



# IN THE HOMETLAND OF TITIAN

## ITINERARIES IN THE BELLUNO AREA



TITIAN WAS BORN IN PIEVE DI CADORE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 1488 AND 1490, AND WAS THE SECOND CHILD OF GREGORIO VECELLIO, WHO DESCENDED FROM AN IMPORTANT, WEALTHY FAMILY OF NOTARIES, LAWYERS AND ADMINISTRATORS. HE WAS BROUGHT UP TO BE A SHREWD MANAGER OF MONEY AND TO TEND TOWARDS A SECLUDED LIFESTYLE, WHICH HE MAINTAINED EVEN AFTER BECOMING AN ARTIST OF INTERNATIONAL RENOWN.

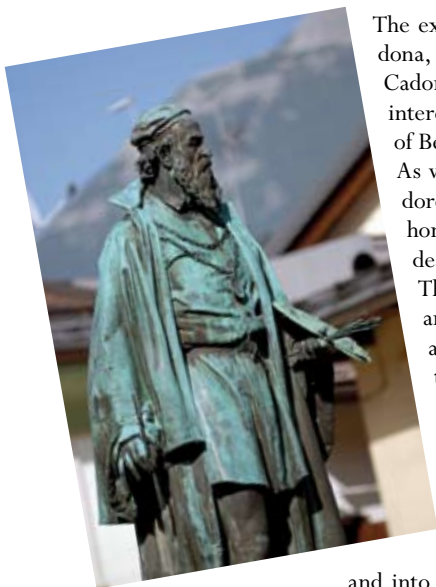


AT A VERY YOUNG AGE HE MOVED TO VENICE, WHERE HE BECAME AN APPRENTICE OF GENTILE AND GIOVANNI BELLINI. BEFORE TURNING TWENTY HE WAS ALREADY WORKING TOGETHER WITH GIORGIONE ON THE FRESCOES OF THE FONDACO DEI TEDESCHI (THE GERMAN EXCHANGE), AND THIS WAS BUT THE BEGINNING OF A BRILLIANT CAREER WHICH WOULD BE TO RENDER TITIAN ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ARTISTS OF HIS TIME; HIS SERVICES WERE CONTENDED BY THE NOBLE FAMILIES OF ITALY, AND HE WORKED FOR BOTH THE GONZAGA FAMILY OF MANTOVA AND THE DUKES OF URBINO. IN 1542 HE BEGAN WORKING FOR POPE PAUL III AND HIS FAMILY; DURING THIS PERIOD HIS FAME AS A PORTRAIT ARTIST CONTINUED TO GROW, AND HE WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAINT THE EMPEROR CHARLES V ON THE OCCASION OF HIS CORONATION IN 1530, BECOMING THE FAVOURITE ARTIST OF BOTH CHARLES AND HIS SON, THE FUTURE KING PHILIP II OF SPAIN.

TITIAN DIED ON THE 27TH OF AUGUST 1576, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE PLAGUE OUTBREAK, LEAVING UNFINISHED THE WORK HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE BEEN PLACED ON HIS TOMBSTONE: THE "PIETÀ".

IN SPITE OF HIS WORLDWIDE FAME AS AN ARTIST, THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE TITIAN MAINTAINED CLOSE LINKS WITH THE LAND OF HIS BIRTH. THESE LINKS CAN BE OBSERVED IN MANY OF HIS WORKS, WITH THE BELLUNO DOLOMITES SERVING AS A SPLENDID BACKGROUND FOR A NUMBER OF FAMOUS PORTRAITS.

## THE PROVINCE OF BELLUNO, STEEPED IN ART AND HISTORY.



The exhibition "Titian. The Final Act" (Belluno, Palazzo Crepadona, and Pieve di Cadore, Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità di Cadore: September 2007 –January 2008) has re-awakened the interest of visitors in the art and in the history of the province of Belluno.

As well as works by the great Renaissance artist from the Cadore himself, in the ancient buildings and churches of Titian's homeland art lovers and history enthusiasts will find a great deal of interest to visit and landscapes to admire.

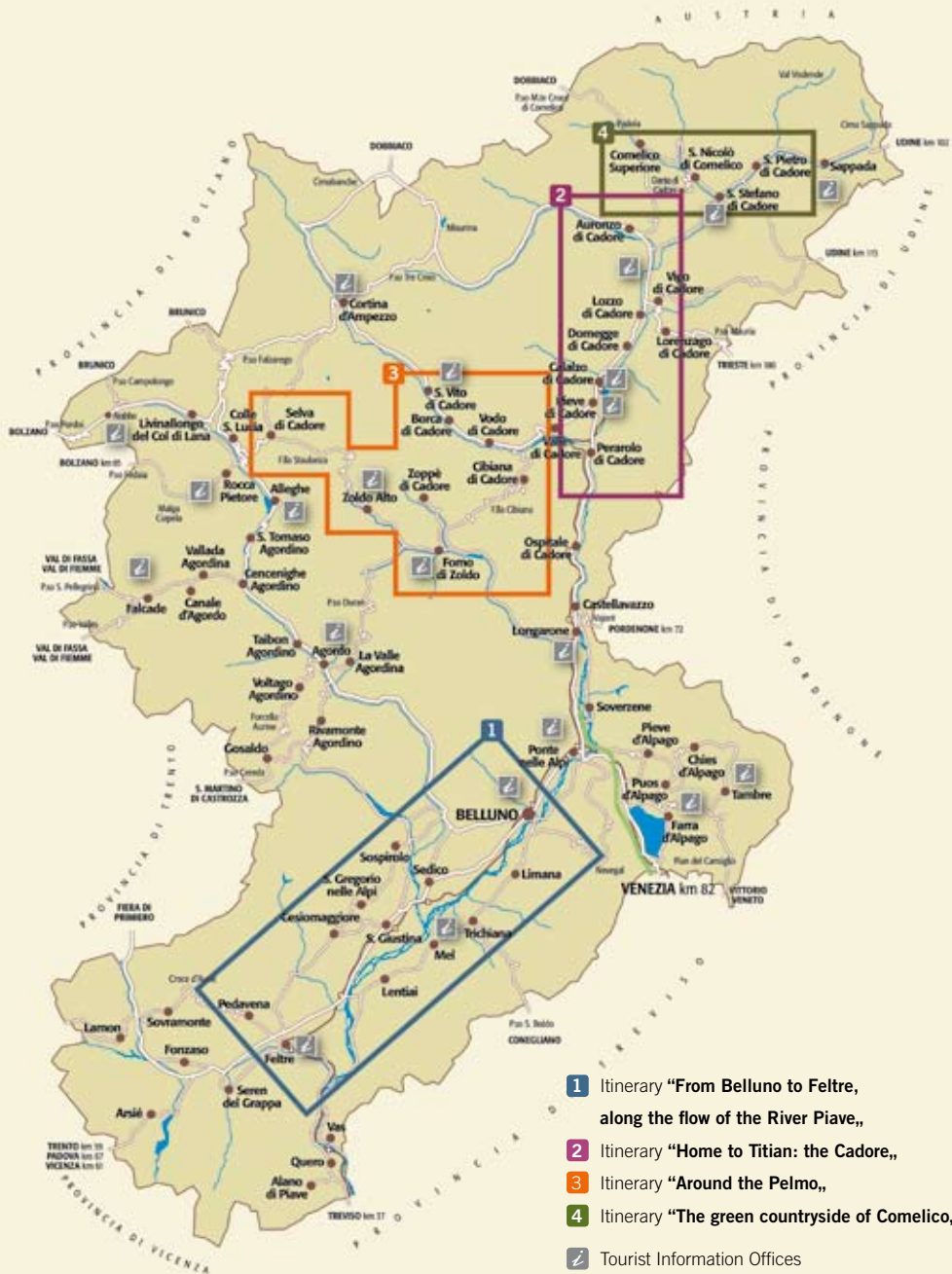
The aim of this booklet is to suggest a few itineraries in the area which offer the opportunity to learn more not only about the work of Titian and his apprentices, but also about the splendid landscape and historical buildings of the province of Belluno. Along these four routes, you can admire paintings, frescoes and sculptures; but above all, you will have the opportunity to truly understand and appreciate the bond that exists between artworks and the environmental and cultural context within which they are created. Often these routes will take you off the beaten track


and into the outskirts of towns and villages, through tiny hamlets with their little-known churches, villas and mansion houses, in an area which stretches from the Piave valley to the most famous peaks in the Dolomites.

Pieve di Cadore, bronze statue of Titian placed in the centre of Piazza Tiziano (Antonio Dal Zotto, 1800)

# IN THE HOMETLAND OF TITIAN

## ITINERARIES IN THE BELLUNO AREA



- 1** Itinerary "From Belluno to Feltre, along the flow of the River Piave,,"
  - 2** Itinerary "Home to Titian: the Cadore,,"
  - 3** Itinerary "Around the Pelmo,,"
  - 4** Itinerary "The green countryside of Comelico,,"
-  Tourist Information Offices

## 1 Itinerary “From Belluno to Feltre, along the flow of the River Piave,,

**Belluno:** historic centre and exhibition; **Sedico:** Church of S. Maria Annunziata and Oratory of S. Nicolò; **San Gregorio nelle Alpi:** Church of San Gregorio Papa; **Cesiomaggiore:** Ethnographical Museum of the Province of Belluno and the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park; **Feltre:** historical centre, civic museums and Sanctuary of San Vittore and Santa Corona; **Lentiai:** Church of Santa Maria Assunta; **Mel:** historic centre, Zumelle Castle; **Trichiana:** church of Pialdier; **Limana; Belluno.**

Length: approx. 74 km



numerous porticoes; **Via S. Pietro** with the Church of San Pietro; **Piazza Duomo**, which has been described as one of the most beautiful squares in the country, with the Cathedral of S. Martino, the magnificent bell tower designed by Filippo Juvarra (one of the finest Baroque bell towers in Italy); Palazzo Piloni with its frescoed reception hall; Palazzo dei Rettori; **Porta Rugo**, the southern gateway to the city, used by those arriving from the river port of Borgo Piave below.



As you go along the SS50 trunk road towards

The itinerary starts out from the provincial capital **Belluno**, which sits on a rise at the confluence of the Piave River and the Ardo Torrent, in a still-unspoiled valley surrounded by the splendid Dolomites to the north and the Veneto Pre-Alps to the south. The lovely little historic centre, throughout most of which traffic restrictions are in operation, is extremely tourist-friendly and all the most interesting monuments can easily and conveniently be reached on foot: **Piazza S. Stefano** (\*1) with the church of the same name (15th century); **Porta Dojona**, the main gateway to the Renaissance Old Town; **Piazza del Mercato** (also known as Piazza delle Erbe) with the Monte di Pietà (Pawnbroker's) building; 16th century townhouses and

### VILLA PAGANI-GAGGIA PARK

At Socchieva di San Fermo, just 1 km from the trunk road to Feltre, hidden away among the greenery lies Villa Gaggia (\*2), surrounded by a superb park designed by the landscape gardener Alexander Poiteau Le Terrier. The villa hosted the last meeting between Hitler and Mussolini.



Civic Museum of Belluno - Piazza Duomo 16 - tel. fax 0437 944836 - [www.comune.belluno.it](http://www.comune.belluno.it)



Feltre, the first stop on the route is **Sedico**, where you can admire the *Madonna col Bambino* by Titian and his brother Francesco Vecellio (•3) in the church of Santa Maria Annunziata. The village of Sedico lies at the confluence of the Cordevole Torrent

and the Piave River, and for centuries it was an important point on the river route along which timber and copper were transported on rafts from the Agordino area to the Cadore; a thriving trade developed in the area, evidence of which can be seen in the historic noble family villas (Villa Zuppani in Pasa, Villa De' Manzoni in Patt and Villa Rudio in Landris).

Return onto the trunk road for Feltre, and after

just a few minutes it is time to stop off again at the small village of **Bribano**, where, in the ancient Oratory of S. Nicolò (16th century),



you can admire a triptych by Agostino da Lodi. From here the route continues to Santa Giustina and turns right towards Cesiomaggiore.

Here it is worth taking a brief detour to **San Gregorio nelle Alpi** (the highest municipality in the whole valley), where, as well as a splendid view out over the whole area, you can admire an altarpiece, *Madonna col Bambino*, by Moretto da Brescia (•4). From here the route goes back onto the piedmont road and continues on towards **Cesiomaggiore**, where the Ethnographical Museum of the Province of Belluno and of the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park is housed inside Villa Avogardo in the Seravella

## TOWARDS THE AGORDINO AREA



Just under 10 km from Belluno, in a peaceful, quiet area of the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park, lies the Charterhouse of Vedana (•5). The building can be admired from the outside only, because it is home to an order of enclosed nuns, but it is certainly worth making a detour to visit, on account of both its fine architecture and the lake below, of glacial origin.

To reach the Charterhouse, follow the trunk road for Agordo, cross the river at PonteMas and turn right towards S. Gottardo.

Also on the road for Agordo, along the banks of the Cordevole Torrent, after about 10 kilometres, you can see a recently-restored mining complex, the Val Imperina, inside which there is a visitor centre.

The main square in Agordo is also worth a visit to admire Villa Crotta de' Manzoni (which houses the Luxottica Eyewear Museum) and the Archdeacon's Church - with its singular architectural feature of north European origin, two bell towers built one beside the other - frescoed by the Belluno artist Giovanni De Min. Those who wish to continue on into the Agordino valley should not fail to visit the Church of S. Simon in Vallada Agordina, frescoed by the Treviso artist Paris Bordon, a pupil of Titian (•6).



neighbourhood. From Cesiomaggiore there are two options: the quickest and most convenient is to continue on towards Feltre along the trunk road; the alternative is to carry on along the piedmont route, along which you will encounter a range of attractive little-known country lanes

**Ethnographical Museum of the Province of Belluno and the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park**

Seravella di Cesiomaggiore - tel. 0439 438355



and charming little villages. A visit to the historic centre of **Feltre** and the ancient neighbourhoods outside the city walls is a veritable journey back in time into the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The city lies at the centre of what have always been important communication routes,

and this strategic position explains why Feltre has played such an important role in the area throughout the centuries.

Our visit will take us along **Via Mezzaterra**, the main street of the city, which runs through **Porta Imperiale** and **Porta Oria** to **Piazza Maggiore** (\*7), in the historical heart of the city, a quiet, extremely charming square where you can admire Palazzo della Ragione, one of the most important buildings in the higher part of the city. Inside Palazzo della Ragione is the Teatro della Sena theatre (where Carlo Goldoni made his début), the work of the architect Gianantonio Selva, who also designed the Fenice in Venice. And then there is the Sala degli Stemmi hall, in Palazzo Pretorio, and Alboino Castle, dominated by the lofty Torre dell’Orologio clock tower. Outside of the city walls, under the courtyard of the Cathedral (\*8), it is possible to visit the Roman archaeological area.

From Feltre our route continues along the left bank of the Piave. After a few kilometres along the trunk road towards Belluno, at Busche, turn left in the direction of Lentiai-Mel. The main square of **Lentiai** lies right on the route, and is dominated by the church of S. Maria Assunta



(\*10), where you can admire a Polyptych from the school of Titian and a magnificent coffered ceiling by Cesare Vecellio, (a second cousin of Titian). Many little churches in the area contain frescoes from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (all of which form part of the “16<sup>th</sup> century Paintings” route). From here the itinerary moves on towards Mel, either following the main road or taking a few detours off for a wander through some of the little hamlets along the way. When

#### SANCTUARY OF S. VITTORE AND S. CORONA



Just a few kilometres from the centre of Feltre, in the direction of Treviso, lies the village of Anzù. From here a steep slope (which you can walk or drive up along a pilgrims’ path) leads to the Sanctuary of San Vittore and Santa Corona (\*9), a splendid mediaeval building with strong Byzantine influences and frescoes dating from between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.



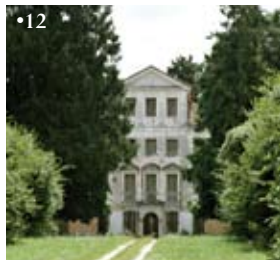
#### The civic museums of Feltre

- *Carlo Rizzarda Modern Art Gallery*  
via Paradiso, 8 - tel. 0439 885234/885242 – [www.comune.feltre.bl.it](http://www.comune.feltre.bl.it)
- *Civic Museum*  
Via Luzzo 23 - tel. 0439 885241 / 0439 885242
- From Feltre you can follow some of the most interesting 16<sup>th</sup> Century Painting itineraries in the province of Belluno.





you reach **Mel**, perched on a hilltop midway between Belluno and Feltre, you will find a splendid square around which you can admire the fine historic townhouses of Venetian noble families which bear witness to the prestige the town enjoyed throughout the centuries. In the Parish Church of the Annunziata di Maria, and in the nearby church of the Addolorata, you can admire works by Giovanni Da Mel (the son of Antonio Rosso, an artist from the Cadore, a predecessor of Titian), the Vecellio family, Andrea Schiavone (•11) and the Feltre artist Pietro Marescalchi.

From Mel, moving in the direction of Belluno, we come to **Trichiana**, “the village of books”, an important little town of ancient origins on the left bank of the Piave. Here you will find Villa Piloni-Foscolo (•12), which played host on several occasions to Cesare Vecellio and contained an extremely important library. The parish



church contains works by Paris Bordon and Giovanni Da Mel, and if you take a brief detour towards **Pialdier** (from the centre of Trichiana off in the direction of the Piave River), you will be able to admire the frescoes by Paris Bordon, a pupil of Titian. Back on the main road towards Belluno, a final stop is recommended in **Limana**, the last municipality before you come to the municipal area of the provincial capital itself. You can reach Limana along the charming little hillside roads which run through the Valmorel, and the parish church of Limana contains the remains of S. Valentino.

 **Belluno Tourist Information Office**  
tel. 0437 940083 – belluno@infodolomiti.it

 **Feltre Tourist Information Office**  
tel. 0439 2540 – feltre@infodolomiti.it

 **Mel Tourist Information Office**  
tel. 0437 540321 – comune\_mel@infodolomiti.it

#### ZUMELLE CASTLE



From Lentiai, on the road to Mel, turn right at the crossroads at Villa di Villa and continue for 4km, following the signs. The castle is a rare example of High Mediaeval architecture, and its strategic position meant it was the object of much contention between the Bellunesi and the Trevigiani. The fortress has been completely restored, and is open to visitors (•13).



#### Mel – Orange Flag of the Italian Touring Club –

- *Civic Archaeological Museum*  
Palazzo delle Contesse - Piazza Papa Luciani.
- *Palaevenetian Necropolis*  
Via Tempietto 63, c/o “mons. Felice Rosada” Infant School tel. 0439 80820

## 2 Itinerary “Home to Titian: the Cadore,,

**Perarolo:** Timber Museum, Palazzo Lazzaris, Church of S. Rocco; **Pieve di Cadore:** museums, house where Titian was born, Archdeacon's Church; **Calalzo:** Church of S. Biagio; **Domegge:** Church of S. Giorgio, Church of S. Rocco and Church of La Salute; **Vigo:** Church of S. Orsola and Church of S. Margherita di Salagona; **Auronzo.**

Length: approx. 33 km



This second itinerary starts out from **Perarolo di Cadore**, mid-way between Belluno and Cortina d'Ampezzo.

The village lies at the confluence of the Piave River and the Boite Torrent, and from the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was an important river port for the trade of timber from the Carnia, Tyrol and Carinthia regions in Austria, destined for the shipyards of Venice. The trade brought fame and wealth to the Cadore village, which played host to many illustrious visitors in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, among them the poet Giosuè Carducci and Queen Margaret of the House of Savoy, who was twice a guest at Palazzo Lazzaris Costantini.

Two sawmills in the area were owned by Titian and his brother Francesco Vecellio, and among the exhibits in the Timber Museum is a series of documents related to the family's trading

activities. The great artist's relationship with Perarolo was not only a commercial one, however, for in 1525 he married Cecilia, the daughter of Mastro Giacomo, the local barber. Cecilia was



Titian's model for a number of famous paintings, such as the *Madonna del coniglio*, now on display in the Louvre. In the local church of S. Rocco you can admire a work by **Francesco Vecellio: Madonna con Bambino e i santi Rocco e Sebastiano** (•1).

Leaving behind Perarolo di Cadore - one of the gateways to the Val Montina and the first wilderness area in Europe - the route continues, first along the Cavallera, part of the old Alemagna road, today replaced by the 184 metre high Ponte Cadore bridge, and then onto the Alemagna trunk road in the direction of Cortina, and arrives in **Pieve di Cadore**, Titian's birthplace. The historical capital of the valley, thanks to its strategic geographical position at its centre, Pieve di Cadore played an important role in politics, culture and religion since as far back as the





Roman Empire. Around Piazza Tiziano (•2), at the centre of which stands a bronze statue of the artist, lies the **Church of S. Maria Nascente** (•3) - where you can admire a number of works, such as a Madonna con Bambino e Santi by Titian and his workshop, a *Madonna con bambino* by Francesco Vecellio and an *Ultima Cena* by Cesare Vecellio – and the headquarters of the **Magnifica Comunità di Cadore**.

Inside this 15th century building you can see an exhibition of prints and engravings by Titian, reproductions of correspondence which belonged to the artist, and you can also admire the works of **Marco Vecellio: Madonna con Bambino; Emblema del Cadore; S. Marco; Allegorie della Fede e della Fortezza, as well as La Dedizione del Cadore a Venezia** by Cesare Vecellio (•4). (While the exhibition “Titian. The Final Act” is running, the building will host a section of the exhibition in which visitors will be able to



**And...**

Vecellio Family Itinerary through the Cadore, Zoldo and Comelico areas, organized by the Titian and Cadore Study Centre [www.tizianovecellio.it](http://www.tizianovecellio.it).

admire two works by Titian and another by Tintoretto, together with a series of interesting documents related to the administrative and financial activities of the artists, closely interlinked with the activities of the Magnifica Comunità di Cadore). Just a few dozen metres from the main square of Pieve di Cadore, on the road to Sottocastello, in Via Arsenale, you can visit the

**house where Titian was born (•5).**

The building, which was declared a national monument in 1922, has the appearance of a typical Cadore noble family dwelling: rather modest in size, in solid brick, with a wooden staircase and a long gallery leading to the first floor. Titian returned to this house even in his later years during the summer, to escape from the sultry climate of Venice.



From Pieve di Cadore the route carries on towards **Calalzo di Cadore**, an important tourist resort which rose up on a morainic terrace which goes down to the Centro Cadore Lake (•6). Here **Orazio Vecellio painted the doors of the reliquary** in the Church of S. Biagio. Par-

**NEBBIÙ AND VENÀS**

From Pieve di Cadore, we suggest a brief detour off our route towards Cortina. Just after the village of Tai, turn right for Nebbiù, where the Church of S. Bartolomeo contains a work by **Marco Vecellio: Madonna con Bambino e santi Antonio Abate, Lucia e Maria Maddalena** (•7).



Another few kilometres in the direction of Cortina will take you to Venàs di Valle di Cadore, where you can see the work by **Francesco Vecellio, Madonna con Bambino; santi Marco, Lucano e Albino, in the Church of S. Marco Evangelista.**



ticularly interesting is the archaeological site of Lagole - where important finds have been brought to light dating back to the Palaeovenetian Age – and the spa area, delightful little springs which rise up straight out of the earth. Continuing along the main road, you can stop off in **Domegge di Cadore**, where there are three churches which contain works connected to the Vecellio family: in the Church of S. Giorgio you can see the *Madonna con Bambino e sante Lucia e Apollonia* by Marco Vecellio; the Church of S. Rocco contains the *Madonna con Bambino e santi Rocco e Sebastiano* by Francesco Vecellio; and just a few hundred metres from the main square in Domegge, in the neighbourhood of

### THE TRADITIONAL OLD-STYLE HOUSES OF GRE A AND RIZZIOS



Highly recommended comes a pleasant walk which will take you from Domegge (the little road on the right next to the Church of S. Rocco) to the villages of Rizzios and Grea, along the

old Roman road known as “Giro delle Coste”. Here you can see some fine, rare examples of traditional Cadore-style dwellings built in wood and stone (●8), and enjoy the splendid view over Calalzo, the lake and the magnificent larch and beech forests of the area. About two hours’ walk, suitable for the whole family.

#### Pieve di Cadore

- *Museum of the Magnifica Comunità Montana di Cadore* (Palaeovenetian Art Section- Talamini Art Gallery) Piazza Tiziano, 1 tel. 0435 32262 - [www.magnificacomunitadicadore.it](http://www.magnificacomunitadicadore.it)
- *Titian's House* - Via Arsenale - tel. 0435 32262 [www.magnificacomunitadicadore.it](http://www.magnificacomunitadicadore.it)
- *Eyewear Museum* - Via Arsenale, Palazzo Cosmo tel. 0435 500213 - [www.museodellocchiale.it](http://www.museodellocchiale.it)

#### Vigo di Cadore

- *Cadore Historical Library* - Via Card. Piazza - tel. 0435 77839





Collesello, in the Church of La Salute, there is a *Madonna con Bambino e Angeli* by **Orazio Vecellio**. The next stage on the route is **Vigo di Cadore**. To reach Vigo, continue in the direction of Auronzo, and just after Lozzo di Cadore, turn right and go up a steep slope. In just a few minutes you will reach the centre of the village, where you will find the Church of S. Orsola (•9), with interesting 14<sup>th</sup> century frescoes on both the outside and the inside. Not far from here, in **Laggio di Cadore**, it is worth visiting the Church of Santa Margherita di Salagona, a delightful Gothic building which sits all alone in the midst of green fields. Both these churches are described in detail in the “Art Treasures” itineraries. The last stage on our route is **Auronzo di Cadore**, situated at the heart of the Ansiei Valley, spread out for over 8km on the longest valley bottom in the Cadore, on the banks of Santa Caterina Lake. The lake, which formed in the 1930s after a dam was built over the Ansiei Torrent, is an important competition centre for canoeing and motorboat racing. Visitors should not miss the Church of S. Caterina at Cella, a

small 16<sup>th</sup> century construction, reference to which is found in documents dating back as far as the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The church was once a welcome stop-off point for wayfarers heading for Comelico across the Zovo Pass.

📍 **Pieve di Cadore Tourist Information Office**

tel. 0435 31644 – pievedicadore@infodolomiti.it

📍 **Calalzo di Cadore Tourist Information Office**

tel. 0435 32348 – calalzo@infodolomiti.it

📍 **Auronzo di Cadore Tourist Information Office**

tel. 0435 9359 – auronzo@infodolomiti.it

**LORENZAGO, THE VILLAGE OF THE POPES**



This small village sits on a plateau overlooking the Centro Cadore Lake. Because of its sunny position, peaceful atmosphere and clean, pure air, it is a popular holiday resort. (•10). Pope John Paul chose to spend his summer break in Lorenzago on six occasions, and his successor Benedict XVI followed his example in summer 2007. The municipality is formed by two neighbourhoods, Villapiccola and Villagrande. Particularly interesting for visitors are: the 18th century parish church, the 16th century Tremonti House and the little Church of the Madonna della Difesa. There are also many fine walks and hikes to enjoy in the countryside starting out from Lorenzago, in particular the hike to the Mauria Pass, dominated by the Cridola massif.



**MISURINA LAKE AND THE TRE CIME DI LAVAREDO**



27 km from Auronzo, through the Somadida Forest, you will find Misurina Lake (•11), a well-known tourist resort surrounded by the splendid peaks of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo, the Sorapiss, the Cadini and the Marmarole. From here you can go up to Col de Varda, from where there is a magnificent view out over the Cristallo Group, and to Monte Piana, the site of bloody battles during the Great War, evidence of which can be seen in the open trenches and in the museum collections of the Bosì Refuge; but the truly unmissable trip is the route which winds its way around the foot of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo.

### 3 Itinerary “Around the Pelmo,,

**San Vito di Cadore:** churches; **Venàs:** Church of S. Marco; **Cibiana;** **Zoppè di Cadore:** Church of S. Anna; **Forno di Zoldo:** Church of the Vergine Addolorata, Parish Church of S. Floriano; **S. Fosca:** monumental church; **Selva di Cadore:** Church of S. Lorenzo and archaeological sites.

Length: approx. 74 km



the Church of S. Marco Evangelista to admire the work by **Francesco Vecellio**, *Madonna con Bambino*; *Santi Marco, Lucano e Albino* From Venàs, turn right and head for **Cibiana di Cadore**, known as the “painted village”, because, together with the outlying hamlets of Masariè, Cibiana di Sotto and Pianezze, the

outside walls of the houses in Cibiana are covered in splendid wall paintings (•1) by contemporary artists, thus forming a sort of open-air museum. From Cibiana we now move on towards **Zoppè di Cadore** (•2). In order to reach Zoppè you

This itinerary goes round one of the most fascinating mountains in the Dolomites, the Pelmo, also known as the “Caregon del Signor” (the Lord’s Throne) because of its characteristic chair shape. The route starts out from **San Vito di Cadore**, a tourist resort just a few kilometres from Cortina d’Ampezzo, on the slopes of Monte Antelao at an altitude of a thousand metres. Here you can admire two interesting works by **Francesco Vecellio**: the first, *Madonna con bambino e santi Ermagora, Vito, Giovanni Battista e Gottardo*, is in the Parish Church of S. Vito, and the second, *Madonna con bambino e santi Ermagora e Antonio Abate*, is in the Church of the Difesa. Heading in the direction of Belluno, the route then goes down to **Venàs di Cadore**, where visitors simply must stop off for a visit to



#### DOLOMITES MUSEUM, THE MUSEUM IN THE CLOUDS

Just 5 km from Cibiana, famous for its wall paintings, lies the Forcella Cibiana Saddle, from where a convenient shuttle service or a pleasant nature walk will take you to the old wartime fort of Monte Rite, which today is home to the Dolomites Museum, the “museum in the clouds” created by the famous mountaineer Reinhold Messner.  
Tel. 0435 890996 - [www.monterite.it](http://www.monterite.it)

#### FORNO DI ZOLDO - Iron and Nail Museum

c/o Palazzo del Capitaniato via San Francesco, 15 - tel. 0437 787811-7814

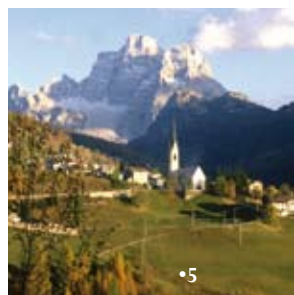


should continue in the direction of Forno di Zoldo and turn right just before the entrance to the village. The name Zoppè derives from a term in the local dialect meaning a clod of earth, and this delightful little village is situated in the Ritoro Valley (which can be entered only by going along a steep little road which starts out at Forno di Zoldo). The villa-

ge sits at the foot of the majestic Monte Pelmo, and was the birthplace of a number of important contemporary artists such as Masi Simonetti and Fiorenzo Tomea. In the local Church of S. Anna there is a *Madonna con Bambino e santi Paolo, Anna e Girolamo* from Titian's workshop and also worth a visit is the local ethnographical museum.

From Zoppè we move on to **Forno di Zoldo**, the name of which (*forno* means "oven" or "foundry") reminds us that in ancient times the whole of the Val di Zoldo was an important mining area, and that Forno di Zoldo in particular was the site of mineral foundries (those particularly interested in the subject might like to visit the Iron and Nail Museum). In the Church of the Vergine Addolorata you can see **Polyptych** from

**Titian's workshop**, and also well worth a visit is the Parish Church of S. Floriano, in late 15<sup>th</sup> century style, with a façade richly decorated with frescoes dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and an 80 metre high 19<sup>th</sup> century bell tower. Inside the church you will find the *l'Altare delle Anime* (•3), sculpted by the Belluno artist Andrea Brustolon). From here the route moves on up to the 1773 metre altitude of the Staulanza Pass and then down again towards the Val Fiorentina on to **S. Fosca**. In the local monumental church, of 15<sup>th</sup> century style, there are interesting frescoes, a tabernacle by Andrea Brustolon and a *flügelaltar* (a typical wooden altar enclosed within a sort of casket with two doors decorated with sculpted and painted figures). A little further on, for those interested in rural architecture, a visit is recommended to the wooden *tabià* (haysheds) of the Andria neighbourhood. The final stage on our route brings us to **Selva di Cadore** (•5), situated in the middle of the Eastern Dolomites, between Monte Civetta and Monte Pelmo. Although the municipality of Selva belongs to the Agordino area, the village has since time immemorial been considered part of the Cadore. At the centre of the village is the monumental church of S. Lorenzo, of 15<sup>th</sup> century design, inside which you can admire **an altarpiece, an altar step by Antonio Rosso, a forerunner of Titian from the Cadore, and the frescoes of the apse, the work of Antonio Rosso's son, Giovanni da Mel**. 2008 will see the re-opening of the Civic Museum of the Val Fiorentina, the exhibits of which include the skeleton and funeral accoutrements of a hunter from 7400 years ago, found at Mondeval, and the large casts which show the footprints of dinosaurs on the nearby Monte Pelmetto. During the summer guided visits to the two sites are organized.



### COLLE S. LUCIA

Those who so wish can carry on to Colle S. Lucia, situated atop a rock spur wedged between the Val Fiorentina and the Val Cordevole.



From the village there is a truly breathtaking view out over the Pelmo, the Civetta and the Marmolada and the whole of the area below, and it is an excellent starting point for hikes in the heart of the Dolomites. Worth visiting are the "Cesa de Jan", a perfectly conserved 17<sup>th</sup> century building, and the parish church (•4), built on a hilltop overlooking the whole of the Val Fiorentina.

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## 4 Itinerary “The green countryside of Comelico,,

**San Pietro di Cadore:** Church of S. Pietro Apostolo, Villa Poli de Pol; **San Nicolò di Comelico:** parish church; **Candide:** Casa Gera; **Casamazzagno:** Church of S. Leonardo; **Dosoledo:** Church of S. Rocco and San Osvaldo; **Padola:** Church of S. Luca; **Danta di Cadore:** Church of S. Rocco and S. Sabastiano; **Santo Stefano di Cadore:** parish church. **Length: approx. 38 km**

This fourth and last itinerary starts out from **San Pietro di Cadore**, a municipality made up of a large number of little districts - Mare, Presenaio, Valle and most notably the splendid Costalta – and encircled by mountains of unparalleled beauty: the Terze, the Rinaldo, the Crode dei Longerin. In San Pietro you can visit the Church of S. Pietro Apostolo, inside which is a work by Marco Vecellio: *S. Pietro, S. Paolo e S. Simone*, and Villa Poli de Pol (\*1), a splendid 17th century construction which today houses the Town Hall, built by the Venetian architect Baldassare Longhena (a pupil of Scamozzi). From here, the itinerary moves on along a pleasant route halfway up the hillside through the hamlets of Costalta, Costalissoio, Costa, Casada towards **S. Nicolò di Comelico**, where it is worth stop-



ping off to admire the local parish church, built in local alpine Gothic style in 1473. Inside the church are frescoes by Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo (1482). Just a few kilometres further along the main road lies **Candide**, in a fairytale setting with splendid views. Here you will find “Casa Gera”, built in Gothic – Renaissance style and superbly conserved. Those in search of antiques will find old antique shops containing some extremely fine objects not only here in Candide, but throughout the area.



From Candide we now move on up to the little village of **Casamazzagno** to take a look out from the “Balcony of Comelico”, the Gothic Church of



### VALGRANDE SPA AREA

The Valgrande, which opens out at the foot of the “Cima Bagni” peak, was already famous at the beginning of the last century for its superb spa waters. Situated at an altitude of 1300 metres and surrounded by fir trees and clearings, this is the highest spa area in the world; visitors come here to recharge their batteries in waters whose curative properties are well recognised. To reach the spa area, follow the signs for the Monte Croce Comelico Pass, and immediately after Padola, the indications for the spa area (terme) itself.



•3



S. Leonardo, famous for the spectacular, unforgettable views it offers. The next stage on the route is **Dosoledo**, one of the most interesting examples of a “reconstructed” village, with a compact group of stone houses

built around the square with its Neoclassical Church of S. Rocco and S. Osvaldo, built according to a design by Segusini, with the characteristic bulb-shaped bell tower and inside a wooden altarpiece by Brustolon (•2 and •3). The most characteristic feature of the village, however, is the large number of 19<sup>th</sup> century haysheds which enclose the village in a circle shape off towards the valley. Before reaching Santo Stefano, it is worth stopping off at the following villages: **Padola**, the first village to be entirely rebuilt during the reconstruction period by the Feltre architect Segusini, with its Parish Church of S. Luca; and **Danta di Cadore**, where, in the Church of San Rocco and San Sebastiano, you can admire a work attributed to Francesco Vecellio: *Madonna con Bambino e i SS. Rocco e Sebastiano*.



•4

**Santo Stefano di Cadore** (•4), the capital town of the Comelico area, is the last stage on this itinerary. It is the most important town in the whole valley, set in a green basin of fields and woodland at the confluence of the Padola Torrent and the Piave River, surrounded by striking Dolomite peaks. In the large square in the centre of the town is the Parish Church of Santo Stefano, the existence of which is documented as far back as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century; considered the “mother” of all the churches in the Comelico, it was completely rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

📍 **Santo Stefano di Cadore Tourist Information Office**  
tel. 0435 62230 – santostefano@infodolomiti.it

📍 **Sappada Tourist Information Office**  
tel. 0435 469131 – sappada@infodolomiti.it

### SAPPADA

Just a few kilometres from San Pietro di Cadore is Sappada, or “Plodn” in the ancient language spoken locally; for this is a German dialect speaking island founded, it seems, around the year 1000 by refugees from the Tyrol, perhaps attracted here by the rich mineral deposits. In the 15 neighbourhoods which make up Sappada, the locals still speak German, or rather a Bavarian-Tyrolean dialect; a rare example of how tradition, architecture and language itself can make up a valuable cultural heritage which can, indeed must, be preserved. The valley is spread out over 5km along the flow of the Piave River, and one of the many splendid walks to be enjoyed in the area starts out at the Piave springs, in the Val Sesis (•5). This short route, about 8 km long, can be followed on foot, by car, by mountain bike or on horseback.



•5

#### The museums

- Comelico Superiore  
*Historical and Ethnographical Museum of the Customs and Traditions of Casamazzagno* - tel. 0435 67149
- Padola  
*Museum of Alpine Culture, inside which is a large fresco* by Vico Calabrò - tel. 0435 67149
- Sappada  
*War Museum, House-Museum of Country Civilization and Ethnographical Museum.* - tel. 0435 469126



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