

THE GREAT CYCLE ROUTES IN THE DOLOMITES

English

Munich — Venice
Claudia Augusta Altinate

DOLOMITI

THE MOUNTAINS OF VENICE





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The Land of Venice

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FONDATORE**



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COMUNI
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"It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them. Thus you remember them as they actually are, while in a motor car only a high hill impresses you, and you have no such accurate remembrance of country you have driven through as you gain by riding a bicycle."

— Ernest Hemingway

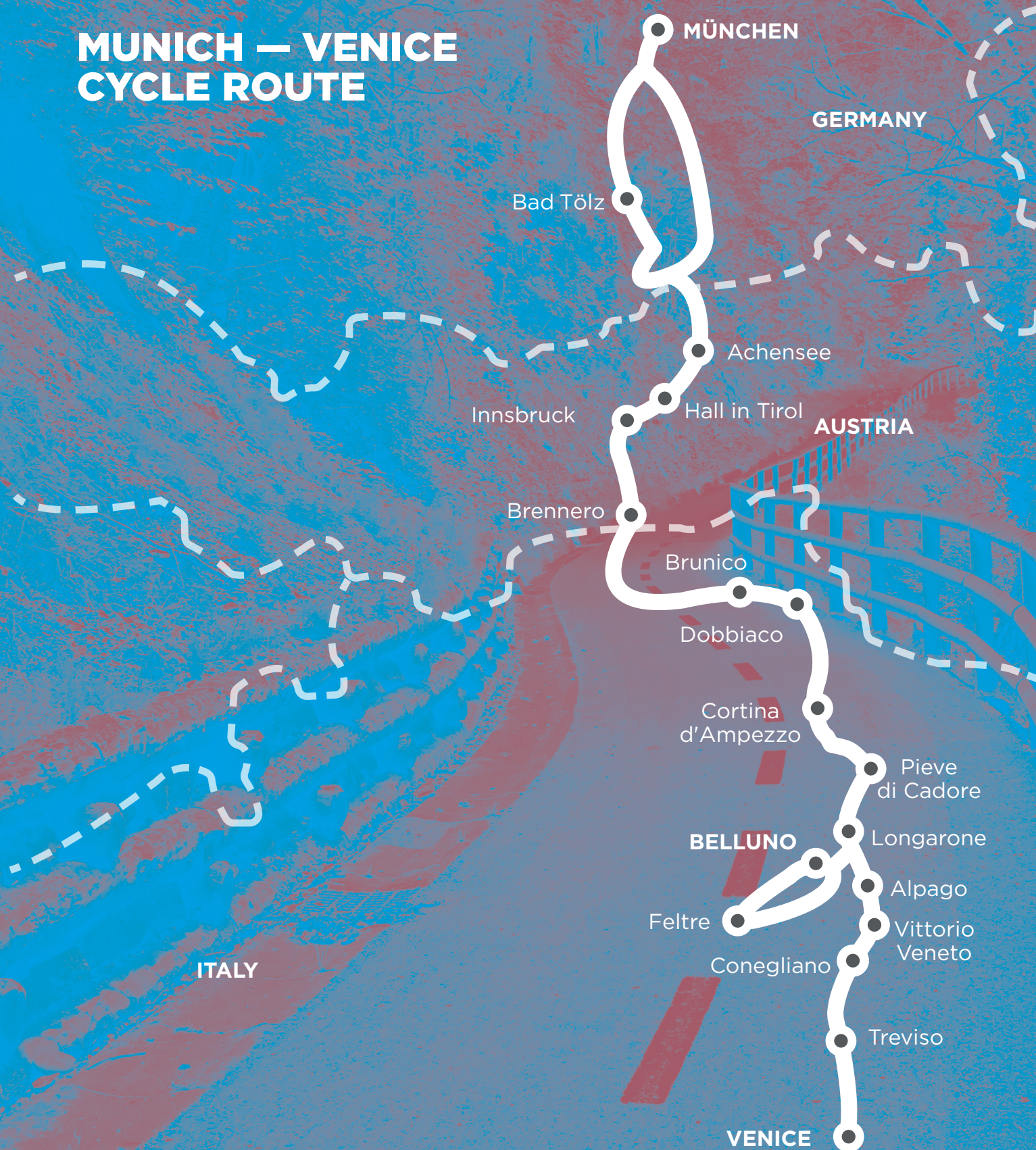
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MUNICH — VENICE CYCLE ROUTE





The Munich—Venice cycle route takes the cyclists from the Bavarian capital to Venice through 560 kilometres of authentic emotions. Along the route, that has an elevation gain of 3000 metres, it is possible to use the well—organized train and bus services. There are also several specialized assistance points where you can solve the problems with your bike. This cycle route is a real history travel because it goes through towns that tell the last thousand years and sometimes even more. A travel that in the Belluno province is followed and nearly "watched over" by the Dolomites, an UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Discover all the stages
in Belluno on
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CIMABANCHE PASS — CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

Discovering the Queen of the Dolomites

1st Stage



13,5 km
Distance



Elevation
gain
of 305 m



Difficulty
Easy

The Munich—Venice cycle route enters the Belluno province through the Cimabanche Pass. From there the beautiful slope on a dirt road towards the "Queen of the Dolomites" gives unique emotions. After leaving an enchanting lake on your left, the path enters the wood and in a clearing near the road there is the little church of the Saints Biagio and Nicolò from Ospitale. The tunnels of the ancient railway and the bridges on the Felizon gorge take you to Fiammes, while the wood flavours and the sound of the stream take you down the slope. There are fairy—tale views that you can truly appreciate riding the bicycle. Just before arriving to Cortina d'Ampezzo, the road becomes paved and soon you can reach the bus station. A short way away, Corso Italia, embellished by the bell tower of the Minor Basilica of the Saints Filippo and Giacomo, suggests to the cyclists to go for a walk through the city centre.



Cimabanche
Pass

Cortina
d'Ampezzo



GASTRONOMY

Casunziei — Half moon—shaped ravioli, typical of the Boite Valley, from Cortina d'Ampezzo to Pieve di Cadore. Traditionally filled with red turnips, they are seasoned with flavoured melted butter and smoked ricotta, nearly always sprinkled with poppy seeds. However, the stuffing tends to follow the seasons, so in spring and summer it's easy to find them filled with wild herbs, while during the end of summer and the late autumn you can taste them typically filled with potatoes and herbs.



CULTURE

Regole d'Ampezzo Museums — Cortina has three exceptional museums. The Paleontologic Museum "Rinaldo Zardini", where you can find precious Triassic fossils that tell when this valley was submerged by water. The Ethnographic Museum of the Regole d'Ampezzo, where you can find the tale of the age-long relationship between man and territory. The Modern Art Museum "Mario Rimoldi", one of the most important places for the 19th century art, that collects some masterpieces by Savinio, Garbari, Depero, Guttuso.



NATURE

Dolomiti d'Ampezzo Natural Park — An exceptional National park with high mountain meadows, woods and vertical walls, rich in wildlife and flora, wonderfully preserved thanks to the Comunanza delle Regole d'Ampezzo that has been protecting it for centuries. A virtuous example of balance between nature and humankind. The paths that enter and cross it are several and with different levels of difficulty. There are 11 alpine refuges within the area.



VILLAGES

Cortina d'Ampezzo — Since the beginning of the 19th century, it has been a tourist destination for the nobles of all Europe. It gained its world and final consecration with the winter Olympic Games in 1956. Sport resort of absolute prestige, the Queen of the Dolomites is a privileged destination for the international jet—set still nowadays. It offers fairy—tale landscapes, well—equipped facilities, night life, shopping, events and a very lively connection to folklore. In 2021 it will house the World alpine skiing Championship.





GASTRONOMY

Cabbage — The traditional cabbage from Vinigo is green, with sweetish taste and it has great nutritional properties. It can be eaten raw, cooked or preserved like sauerkraut. It is generally harvested at the beginning of November, when there are the first autumn frosts that help them to close the leaves and exalt its crispy characteristic. The growing of this variety is concentrated in the Vinigo valley, in a 6000 m area, constantly selected by the local farmers.



CULTURE

ENI village —

It was one of the most interesting town planning experiment with social purposes in Italy, an example of residential architecture that is perfectly integrated in the landscape of Borca di Cadore. It was projected by Edoardo Gellner and wanted by Enrico Mattei, but the original idea was only partially realized. It was a tourist destination until 1992 and then it was partly sold to private citizens and partly abandoned. Today the spaces of the former holiday camp host a project created to increase the value of contemporary art and culture.



NATURE

Pelmo & Croda da

Lago — Mount Pelmo is affectionately called by the locals "El Caregon del Padreterno" (God the Father's big chair), because the legend tells that, when God finished to create the world, he sat exhausted on this mountain resting and admiring His work. Together with the fossil rocks of the Croda da Lago, it gives the name to the UNESCO World Heritage Site System n°1 of the Dolomites. They are 4344 hectares that extend through unmistakable landscapes where some of the most beautiful and striking peaks of the Dolomites stand out.



VILLAGES

Vinigo — It is a small town in the municipality of Vodo di Cadore. It keeps the typical charm of the resorts where you can experience the ancient traditions and customs. It is one of the oldest settlements of the Cadore area and still today it surprises for a luxuriant agriculture that enriches the landscape of this plateau with flowers, fruits and cereals. A typical and renowned product in Vinigo is the cabbage. The altar—pieces and the frescoes in the church of San Giovanni Battista deserve a visit.



CORTINA D'AMPEZZO — VODO DI CADORE

Surrounded by the Dolomites, an UNESCO World Heritage Site

2nd Stage



18 km
Distance



**Elevation
gain
of 323 m**



**Difficulty
Easy**

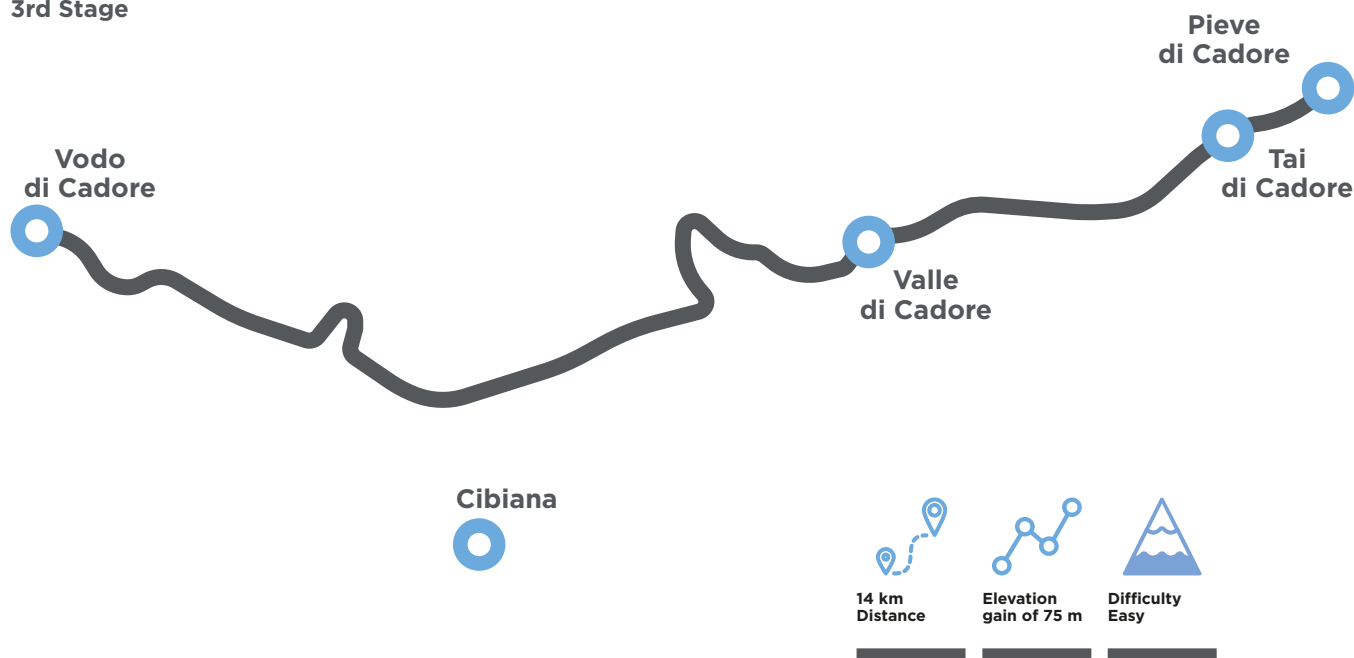
From the bus station in Cortina d'Ampezzo you reach the starting point of the Faloria cableway and get over the spectacular bridge. From there, the sight sweeps over the mountains, from Cristallo to Pomagagnon, from Tofane to Cinque Torri until the Croda da Lago. Near Zuel, the ski jump ramp made for the Cortina Olympic Games in 1956 catches the eye. You can see in front of your eyes the elegant sight of the Boite Valley that zigzags through the typical stations of the ancient railway. San Vito di Cadore deserves a visit in order to admire the village and its churches. The bicycle route pleasantly proceeds with a slight slope towards Borca di Cadore where you can find several great facilities to get some rest and something to eat. In a few time you reach Vodo di Cadore, a beautiful mountain village that is Giampietro Talamini's birthplace. He founded "Il Gazzettino", one of the most important Italian newspaper.



VODO DI CADORE — PIEVE DI CADORE

Descending through the gems of the Boite Valley

3rd Stage



The cycle route goes on with a slight slope. In this part, the cyclists run through cathedrals of dolomia rocks following a very interesting and technical path of subways and tunnels that easily goes down the Boite Valley. At your right you can see Cibiana di Cadore, settled on a slope, a real crib that preserves the secret of the key manufacture. You then reach Valle di Cadore that deserves a visit, both for the ancient historical memories and for the beautiful village of Costa, that once a year, in July, offers a wonderful travel among the ancient professions. From there to Pieve di Cadore the path is relaxing and you will smell the delicious scent of the red spruce and the larch. In short, you will reach the town square, named after the colour master, Tiziano Vecellio. "Pieve che allegra siede trà colli arridenti e del Piave ode basso lo strepito" are the opening words that Giosuè Carducci wrote in one of the lines of the famous "Ode al Cadore".

GASTRONOMY

Ice—cream cone —

In the 19th century, in the United States, the ice-cream was served in glasses that too often were broken or lost. It happened right there, on the streets of New York, that in 1896 Italo Marchioni (Peaio in Vodo di Cadore), thinking about how to end this real economic waste, had this clever intuition: he made and patented a machine that produced wafers, he then took one that was still hot, rolled it up and started to serve his customers. In this way he invented the cone, revolutionizing the ice—cream world forever.



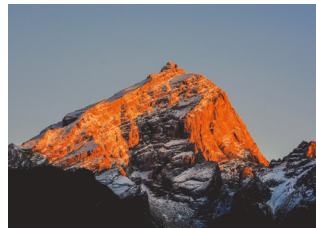
CULTURE

Tiziano's house — Only a few steps away from Pieve di Cadore main square, the famous painter's house is still undamaged and can be visited. It is a 15th century building and underwent several restoration works during the years, but it still preserves the charm of the Cadore style, with its country furniture and the walls covered in wood. A comfortable place that makes well clear where part of the warmth and the harmony that Tiziano put in his works comes from.



NATURE

Antelao, the King of the Dolomites — Mount Antelao, 3.264 m high, is the second peak of the Dolomites, overpassed only by Marmolada. It is the symbol of the Cadore area: a powerful pyramidal massif, with several vertical gorges and chimneys on each face. The view from the top is majestic: if the sky is clear you can clearly see the Adriatic Sea and the Venetian Laguna. And sometimes, it can also be seen in all its impressive beauty by the people who look towards the north from there.



VILLAGES

Cibiana di Cadore —

It is the "town that paints its own history", renowned for the murals that decorate the walls of the little village and now also for the "Museo tra le Nuvole" (Museum in the Clouds), created by Reinhold Messner on Mount Rite. Greatly connected to the winter sports, it was important in the ski jumping history. The local handicrafts is valuable: the "scarpete" (rope and velvet slippers) and the "zestoi" (wooden baskets) are typical of the area. You can enjoy several outdoor activities both in winter and in summer.



PIEVE DI CADORE — PERAROLO DI CADORE

Scent of history and nobility

4th Stage



10 km
Distance



Elevation
gain
of 346 m



Difficulty
Easy

The path continues on the slopes of Mount Ricco, on the top of which the fortress with the same name rises. It was used until the First World War to control all the Cadore area from this strategic position. From there, through a viaduct, you will reach the train station in Calalzo di Cadore. In few minutes, you can go down to the archaeological area in Lagole: it seems to be in Paradise, a lake that whispers old tales. Just few minutes from the town, you can visit also the ancient village of Rizzios, where you can get lost in 200—years—old atmospheres. From there you go towards Perarolo di Cadore, taking the ancient road of the "Cavallera", that can still be driven by cars, so it's important to pay attention. Going down the valley through some panoramic hairpin turns, you will reach the "royal" town. This adjective has not been used by chance, because the Lazzaris Palace housed the Italian and European royal families more than once. There you can visit the Museum of the Cidolo, the tool that was used for stopping and checking the wood that floated from Cadore to Venice.



Calalzo
di Cadore

Pieve
di Cadore

Perarolo
di Cadore



GASTRONOMY

Cadore speck —

The Cadore speck is one of the exceptional food of the Dolomites: it is rosy when you cut it and tasty and intense when you eat it. Known and appreciated worldwide, it is a hymn to the authentic mountain tastes. Made by the pork boned leg, it puts together two ways of preservation: the maturing, as for the raw ham, and the smoking, that usually in this area is made using red spruce and lurch sawdust and juniper branches.



CULTURE

Pieve di Cadore museums —

The Magnifica Comunità di Cadore, that was in the past the governmental institution of the population in Cadore and today it's a reference point for the institutional and social realities in the territory, has its offices in a valuable palace in the main square of the town. Built in the second half of the 15th century, it's unmistakable for the tower that rises besides. Together with significant works by Cesare and Marco Vecellio, it boasts the beautiful Archaeological Cadore Musuem, that shows a collection of small bronzes that are not to be missed. Pieve boasts also an amazing museum that tells the eyewear history, that was born just in these valleys. An exceptional travel through the "Made in Italy".



NATURE

Lagole — It is the archaeological resort where legend and nature melted in a scenario of woods, streams and sheets of water. The most fairy—tale of them is the Laghetto delle Tose. Once, locals and pilgrims plunged in it in order to benefit of the healing properties of its water. There, in the Paleovenetian age a temple rose, a passage way between the North and the South of the Alps, where devotees and warriors came to made their vows or to find relief.



VILLAGES

Perarolo di Cadore —

Placed at the beginning of the Cadore valley, it connects its origin to the wood commerce towards Venice, given its position at the junction with the rivers Boite and Piave. Walking through the streets, the village shows interesting cultural and artistic architectures, among which there is the Casa dei Trofei (House of the Trophies) and the Lazzaris Palace, house where the Queen Margherita and the Prince of Naples stayed. In the church of Saint Rocco you can admire a work by Francesco Vecellio, Tiziano's brother.



GASTRONOMY

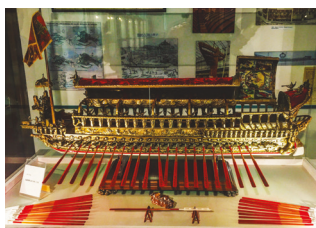
Pastin — A gastronomic speciality of the Belluno area, it is a mixture of beef and pork meat, fresh and spiced minced. Washer-shaped, it seems a hamburger but the spicing and the meat proportion determine its unique taste. In general, it is grilled, but it can be also eaten raw, spread on bread or used to enrich risottos, pastas and pizzas. You should try it with Schiz cheese, that intensifies its taste and makes it a real delight for every gourmet.



CULTURE

Gardona tower —

Built in 1171 and recently restored, it is characterized by its unusual triangular plan. It was part of the defence system of the Belluno County in the 14th century, together with the San Giorgio Castle in Soccher. Once it dominated the river Piave, a checkpoint on the ancient Pellegrini Alemanni (German Pilgrims) way. They travelled there to reach Rome and then Jerusalem. Near the resort of Gardona, north from the town of Castellavazzo, you can easily reach it.



NATURE

The places of the Vajont — 9th of October 1963.

The wave swept away 2000 lives in 4 minutes. Of them, 1450 were living in the Piave valley. A never healed wound, today honoured in the places of memory: the dam, the Longarone Vajont Museum, the monumental church of the Immaculate Saint Mary, the sequoia in the Faè estate, the Mazzolà Palace, the Pirago bell tower, that remained miraculously undamaged and recently can be visited, and the Monumental Cemetery in Fortogna, with its expanse of tombstones and the 11 metal plates with the names of the victims.



VILLAGES

Ospitale di Cadore —

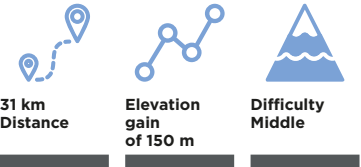
It has been a place of passage and hospitality for centuries (the name derived from it). It had been permanently inhabited only since the 11th century, with the arrival of a group of fishers from Chioggia who, ascended the river Piave, decided to stop. The activities connected to the wood commerce and to the mining were important during the centuries. The surroundings show exceptional beautiful places. The Pissa waterfall is very striking, also in winter, when it freezes and creates spectacular natural sculptures.



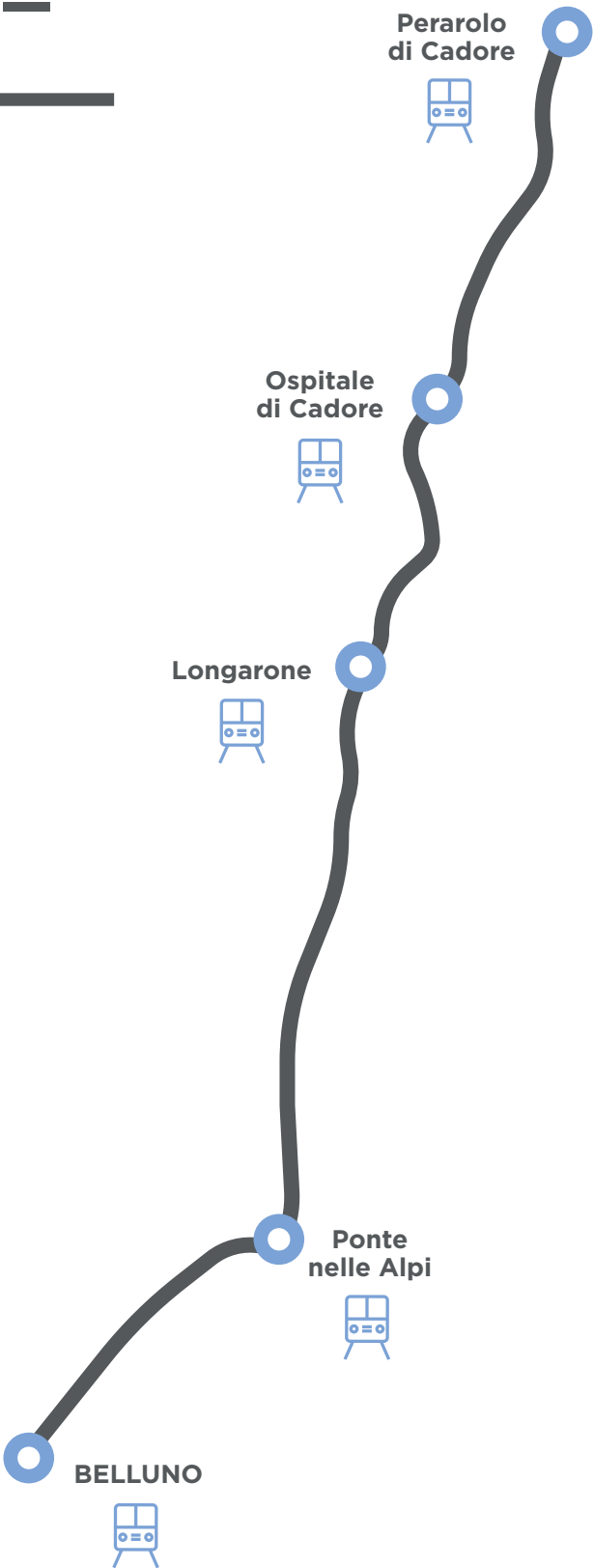
PERAROLO DI CADORE — BELLUNO

Past echoes

5th Stage



In this very wild part, the Munich—Venice cycle route caresses the river Piave. It was the part that the "zattieri" (rafters), who just left for Venice, travelled: a part that tells the past exploits where the professions connected to wood and manufacturing were very important. You will cycle through echoes of ancient sawmills and amphitheatres created by rock quarries until you'll reach Longarone. In this part, just one word comes to your mind, because every place recalls it: Vajont. Still cuddled by the Piave, you will reach Soverzene, where the watch tower reminds you of its ancient magnificence. You'll turn then to the Roman street towards Belluno, passing through the ancient Pieve di Frusseda, today called Ponte nelle Alpi. In short, you will reach the capital of the Dolomites: Belluno. There it is advisable to take one day to visit the beautiful Valbelluna, travelling across the Lunga Via delle Dolomiti (the Long Way of the Dolomites) until Feltre, cycling on the slopes of the Belluno Dolomites National Park and going back along the river Piave, crossing it in two points in order to appreciate the magnificence of both banks.



GASTRONOMY

Alpago lamb — Always been the ideal place to farm sheep, the Alpago Valley gives the name to a native sheep breed. Today Slow Food Presidium, the Alpago lamb has a very tender meat, a delicate taste and a fat-lean balance that allows it to compete with the most valuable meats of the Alps. Generally bred in a natural state, it is proposed as a speciality in many restaurants of the area.



CULTURE

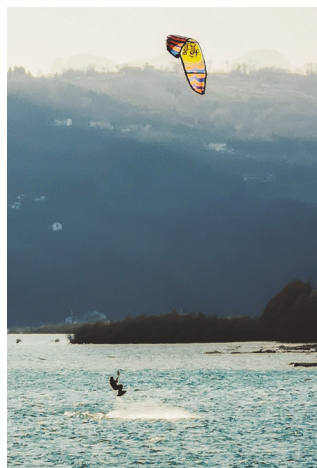
Fulcis Palace —

It is one of the most beautiful 18th century urban building of the Veneto region. From January 2017, the Civic Museum in Belluno has its offices there. Three thousands metres of exposition, distributed on various floors, along an intense way through 24 rooms. It's important to remind the works by Bartolomeo Montagna, Domenico Tintoretto, Matteo Cesa, Andrea Brustolon, Marco and Sebastiano Ricci, Ippolito Caffi, but also some precious collections of china, rare small bronzes, Renaissance small plates, highly prestigious drawings and engravings.



NATURE

Santa Croce Lake — A natural basin, a paradise for many athletes who there, thanks to the wind that constantly blows, practice windsurf, kitesurf and sailing for most of the year. On its banks you can find many entertainments. From there, several paths start, that you can follow with a bike, with a horse, practising nordic walking or running on the mountain. It is greatly loved by the photographers for the extraordinary views that it offers.



VILLAGES

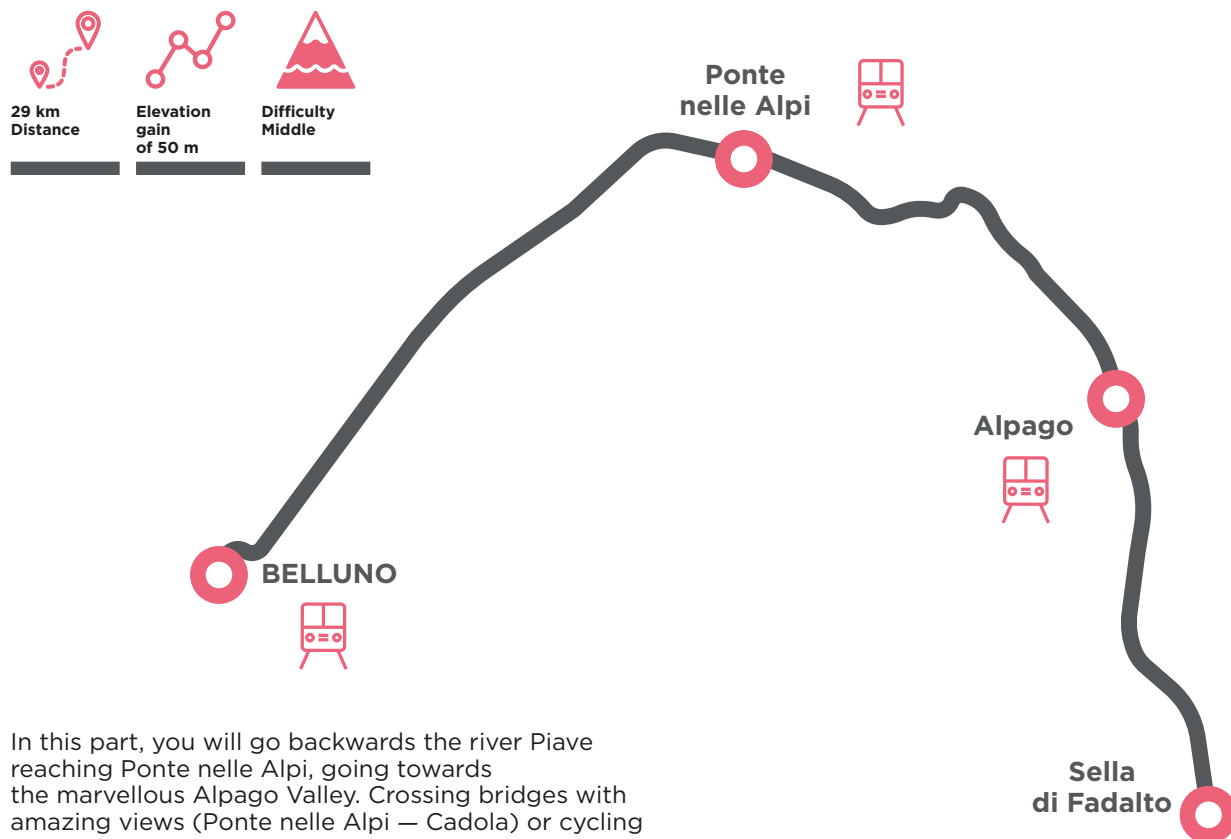
Belluno and its two villages —

Rising on a hill at the junction with the river Piave and the stream Ardo, Belluno keeps an eye on the Valbelluna, protected by the magnificence of the Dolomites in the north and by the beautiful Venetian Prealpi in the south. Penetrating in the most ancient part of the "splendid city", you will be submerged by a whirling of palaces, porches and squares. The southern door, Porta Rugo, links the city with Roman origin to Borgo Piave, famous for the workshops where they created swords for different European armies. In the other village of the city, Borgo Prà, you can still notice some peculiarities that remind how they used to live one century ago, as for example the ancient washtub on the stream Ardo.

BELLUNO — FADALTO SATTEL

Cycling through breathtaking views

6th Stage



In this part, you will go backwards the river Piave reaching Ponte nelle Alpi, going towards the marvellous Alpago Valley. Crossing bridges with amazing views (Ponte nelle Alpi — Cadola) or cycling a real cycling route engraved in the rocks (Soverzene — Cadola), you will reach the town of Soccher. There, you will feel the heroic deeds in defence of the ancient castles that can't be seen anymore today, as the San Giorgio Castle, but above all you can appreciate the remains of what was an ancient art: the quarrying of the mill grinding stone. Continuing along the canal banks, you'll reach the Santa Croce Lake, the surfers' paradise during summer. The cycling route, after passing under the Sitran woods, that house the well-known "Albero della Bicicletta" (Bicycle Tree), becomes a wonderful avenue. You should not miss the sunset from there.



THE CLAUDIA AUGUSTA ALTINATE CYCLE ROUTE

Augsburg

DONA UWÖRTH

GERMANY

Ammersee

Füssen

Seefeld

AUSTRIA

Innsbruck

Brennero

Bolzano

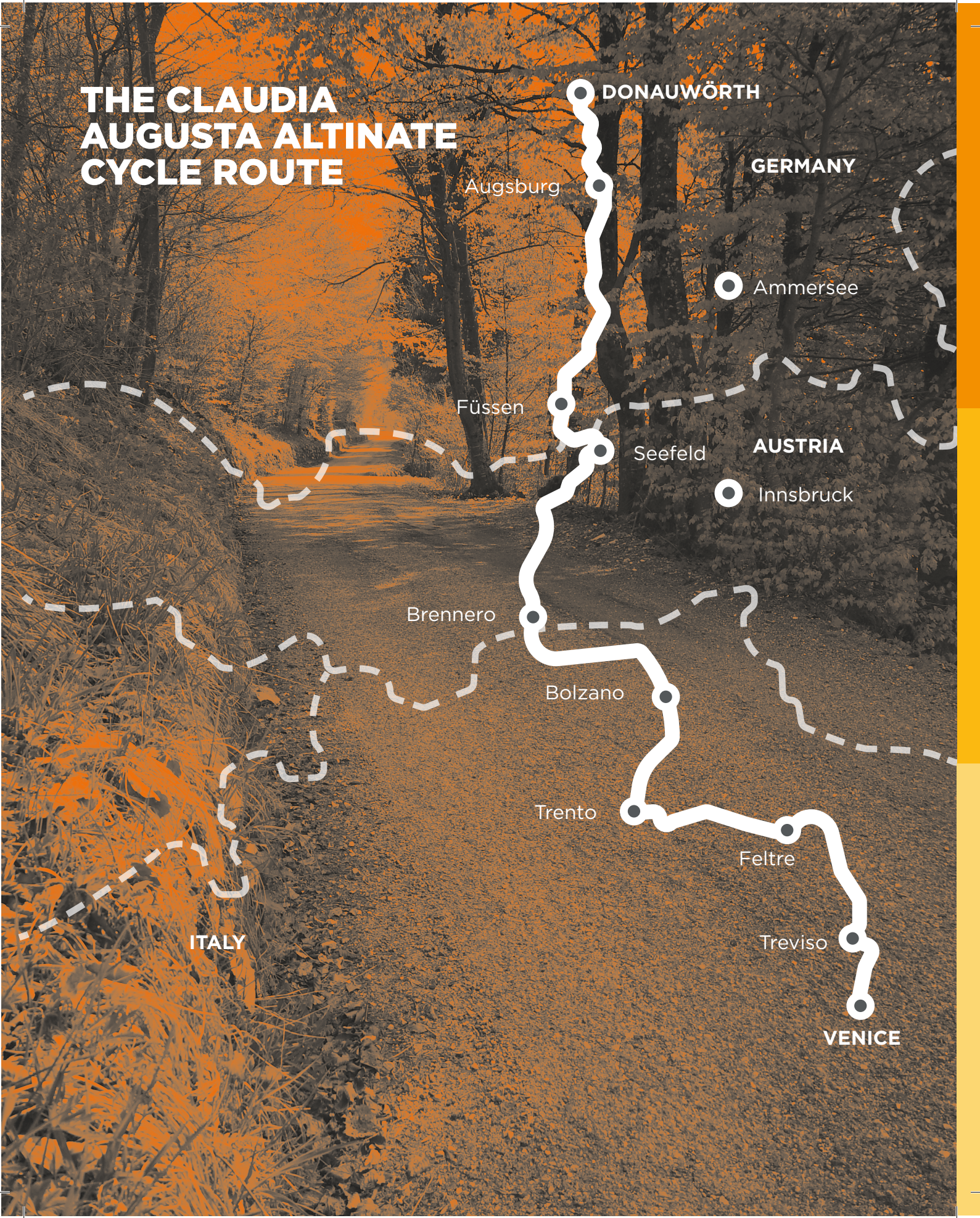
Trento

Feltre

ITALY

Treviso

VENICE



The Claudia Augusta Altinate, an ancient Roman military way, was completed due to the Emperor Claudio during the 1st century B.C., in order to link Altino, a prosperous Roman harbour, with Ausburg, in the heart of Europe. The most renowned scholars have been looking for its original route for years, but it's still today an unsolved mystery. The discovery of a milestone, preserved today in Villa Zugni Tauro at the Centenere, pointing out part of the Claudia Augusta Altinate route in Cesiomaggiore, acknowledges this path as the original one.

Belluno



Researches and hypothesis identify different possible routes, basing also on the Empire's different needs (military, commercial or social). It is most likely that Praderadego is one of them, if not even, as many suspect, the same military route. In fact, in the surroundings of this passage, a very important late Roman — high medieval site was discovered, where they found several objects like coins and everyday tools and paving stones with the technical and structural characteristics typical of the Roman roads. Moreover, along the way, the magnificent Zumelle Castle rises.



Discover all the stages
in Belluno on
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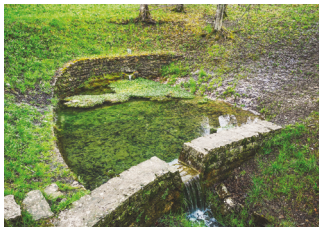
GASTRONOMY

Lamon bean — With a delicate taste, it is characterized by a very thin skin that makes it easily digestible. It's an PGI food and is obtained with a slow production and accurately selected. The seed production area is limited to the Lamon and Sovramonte plateau and the Belluno valley, on fields run by small familiar farms. You must not miss the traditional Festa del Fagiolo di Lamon (Lamon Bean Festival) in September. When you buy the product, check that the package has the brand name of the Consortium for its Protection.



CULTURE

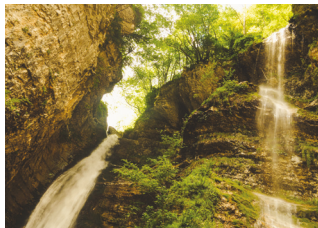
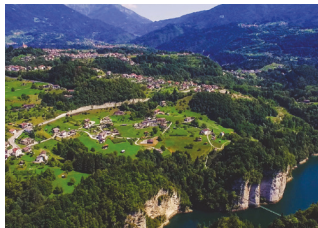
Lamon Roman Bridge — Few hundreds of metres away from the city centre, along the road that goes to S. Donato, in an environment of unique natural beauty, you can see the remains of a Roman bridge that has been recently restored. The bay, supported by a round arch, is entirely made by local stones and it's an evocative evidence of the times when the troops of the Roman empire at the height of its magnificence were crossing this valley to go towards the wild German lands.



NATURE

Senaiga Lake —

It's a sheer of water closed by a 62 metres high dam, projected by the engineer Carlo Semenza. The paths that run along the banks offer breathtaking sights. You should not miss a visit during the melting season, when an impressive waterfall forms at Ponte Serra. You can enjoy all the year the touching sight from the foot-bridge in Vapora. Among the most regular guests of this lake, there are several specimens of heron and wild duck.



VILLAGES

Faller — It's a resort that is rediscovering its tourist vocation improving its accomodation offer and its traditions. Faller is the village of the Prussian apples, of the Fairy Edgarda tale, of the expanse of apple trees in bloom during springtime and bright colours and scents in autumn. Everything is connected to the "Pom Prussian" (Prussian Apple), a variety that is jealously preserved by the inhabitants who keep farming it in a sustainable way and to which is dedicated a festival in October.

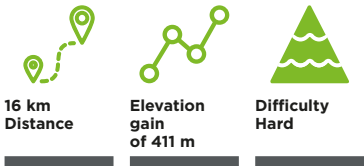
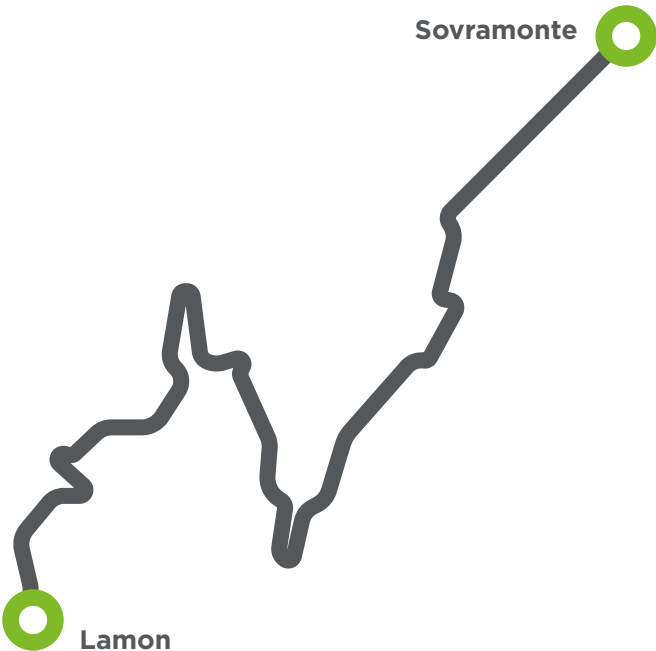


LAMON – SOVRAMONTE

The Bean and the Prussian Apple, the king and the queen

1st stage

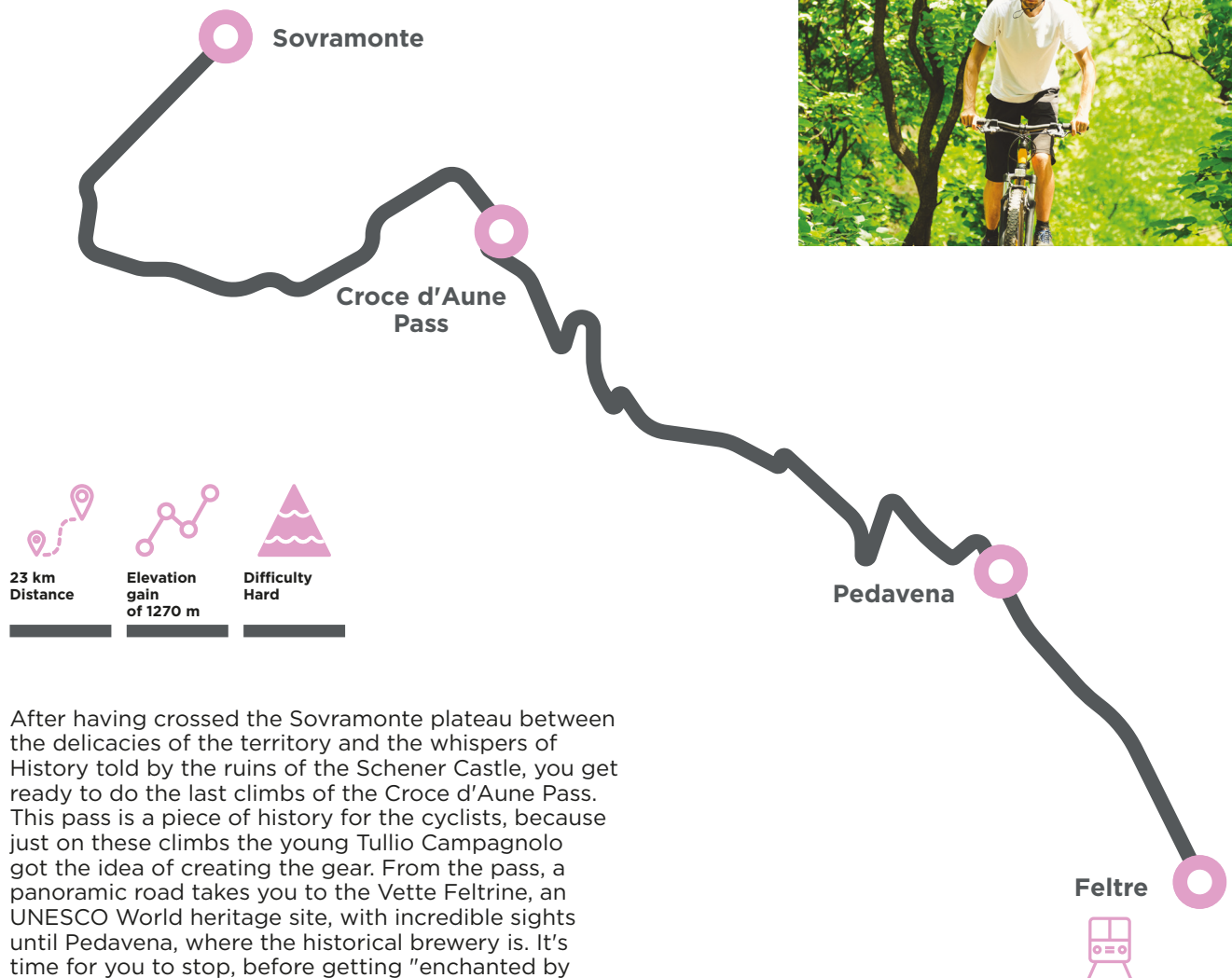
The route of the Claudia Augusta Altinate enters the Belluno province from the Tesino plateau, going down towards Arina, that appears on the right side as a crisp gently perched on the mountain. Down the valley you can admire incredibly amazing places from a naturalistic point of view. At a short distance there is the Salton waterfall, a beautiful gorge with crystal clear waters. The road starts again to slightly climb towards the village of Rugna and just after, in the village of Piei, you'll find the Lamon Roman Bridge, restored few years ago. In short, you will enter the Bean Kingdom, Lamon, that welcomes you with a very hospitable square. After getting down to Ponte Serra and admiring the waterfall, the road starts to climb again towards the small and enchanted village of Faller, where the Prussian apple is the queen of the Sovramonte plateau.



SOVRAMONTE — FELTRE

On the trail of the cycling dawning

2nd Stage



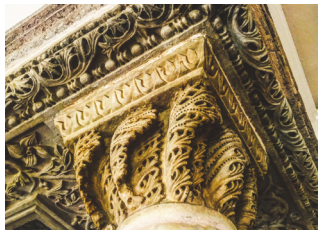
After having crossed the Sovramonte plateau between the delicacies of the territory and the whispers of History told by the ruins of the Schener Castle, you get ready to do the last climbs of the Croce d'Aune Pass. This pass is a piece of history for the cyclists, because just on these climbs the young Tullio Campagnolo got the idea of creating the gear. From the pass, a panoramic road takes you to the Vette Feltrine, an UNESCO World heritage site, with incredible sights until Pedavena, where the historical brewery is. It's time for you to stop, before getting "enchanted by the beauty that remained almost undamaged during the centuries" of the town of Feltre. You don't have to miss a walk through the old streets of this town, until reaching the great Piazza Maggiore. There you will be charmed by Palladio's creations and by a theatre that still echoes the works by Carlo Goldoni. After that, you will get lost visiting a beautiful archaeological area and some prestigious museums. For those who still have strength, the Shrine of the Saints Vittore and Corona deserves a visit.



GASTRONOMY

Dolomiti Beer —

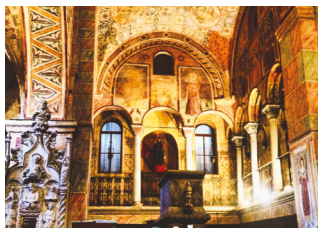
Pure and fresh water from the Dolomites, barley that is cultivated in a land protected by the mountains and cured by expert hands: these things give the peculiar uniqueness of this beer. The Dolomite Beer is a product created by an integrated supply chain project, born in 2006, that valued the experience of the master brewers, the quality of the local raw materials and the production expertise of the Pedavena Brewery. A unique product that can be tasted together with the amazing "Birramisù", a local variety of the typical Italian tiramisù.



CULTURE

Della Sena Theatre —

Placed at the first floor of the Ragione Palace, originally it hosted the meetings of the Major Council. Rebuilt after the fire that destroyed Feltre in 1510, at the end of the 17th century became a theatre. There Carlo Goldoni wrote and performed his first works and presented "Il buon padre" (The good father) and "La cantatrice" (The singer). It's known as the "Small Fenice", because the drastic restoration done at the beginning of the 19th century was made by Gianantonio Selva and Tranquillo Orsi, architect and decorator of the Fenice Theatre in Venice.



NATURE

Belluno Dolomites National Park —

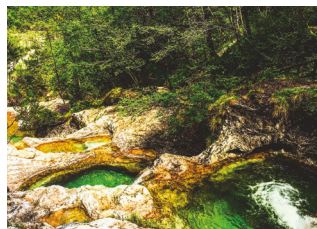
Established in 1993 in order to safeguard the extraordinary rich wild-life and flora of these lands, it's entirely included inside the borders of the Belluno province. The peculiar morphological conformation has encouraged the prosperity of rare specimen and an exceptional variety of environments during the centuries. It's plenty of streams of water and lakes. Walking through these woods, you can often see wild animals and you will be touched by the beauty of the sight from the peaks.



VILLAGES

Feltre — It's a medieval town, entirely rebuilt after the fire in 1510, and it's still today surrounded by its original walls.

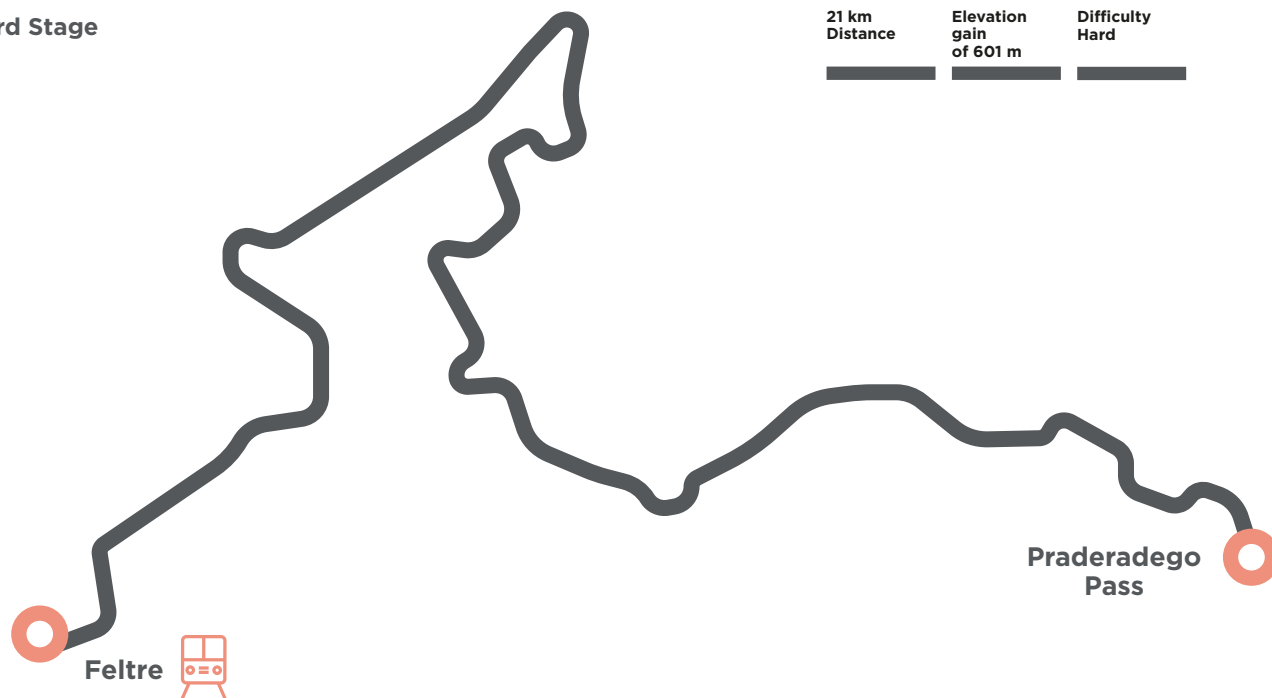
The heart of the historic centre is Piazza Maggiore, dominated by the Alboino Castle. There, every year it starts the challenge that opens the Palio of Feltre. Streets, palaces, workshops, museums and, just outside the walls, the Cathedral with the very ancient archaeological area. The Shrine of the Saints Vittore and Corona, the patron saints of the town, is placed in a marvellous panoramic position. You don't have to miss the frescoes made by the Giotto school.



FELTRE — PRADERADEGO PASS

Through the Sacred River of the Homeland

3rd Stage



You keep going towards Busche through the awesome tree—lined avenues. There, the Via Claudia Augusta Altinate meets a symbolic place: the Villa Zugni Tauro at the Centenere, where the milestone is preserved. The facilities for the cyclists are many, from a well—equipped "Bicigrill" to a break in the land of milk and PDO Piave cheese. You then move towards Lentiai, leaving at your left the beautiful little church in Cesana. You should not miss to visit the parish church in Lentiai, a national monument, where you can enjoy the sight of the marvellous coffered ceiling decorated by Cesare Vecellio. From the small church with frescoes in Bardies to the Praderadego Pass, the route is becoming more and more difficult, plunged in nature and history. A steep road takes you to the gorge of the Rui stream. Both on a dirt road and on an paved one, you will reach the Zumelle Castle, placed on a spur from where you can enjoy the amazing view on the Valbelluna. From the Castle to the Pass, the climb goes on with many steep slopes and narrow hairpin turns through the woods until you'll reach the pretty and cosy church of Saint Fermo and Saint Rustico at the Praderadego Pass.



GASTRONOMY

Piave Cheese —

Everything started in 1960: at that time, Piave cheese was made for the locals, but thanks to its extraordinary excellence, it has nowadays appraisers in all Italy and also abroad. It is offered in five different maturing stages and nowadays the production reaches the 350 thousand whole cheeses each year. The milk comes exclusively from the Belluno province and from the typical cattle breeds of the area, at least for 80%: Bruna Italiana, Pezzata Rossa and Frisona Italiana.



CULTURE

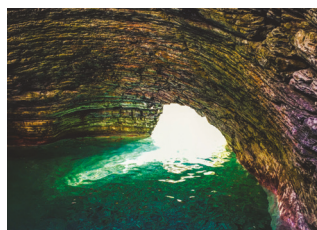
Zumelle Castle —

Scene of many important battles from the Middle Ages to the Late Renaissance, after many restoration works during the centuries, today the Castle shows powerful embattled walls, dominated by a high tower. The castle is equipped to host many events. There are various and evocative legends about the name origin. Among the numerous activities that are hosted there, the Perdonanza Fair has to be mentioned: every year, in July, you can revive the 13th century.

NATURE

Blue Grotto in Mel —

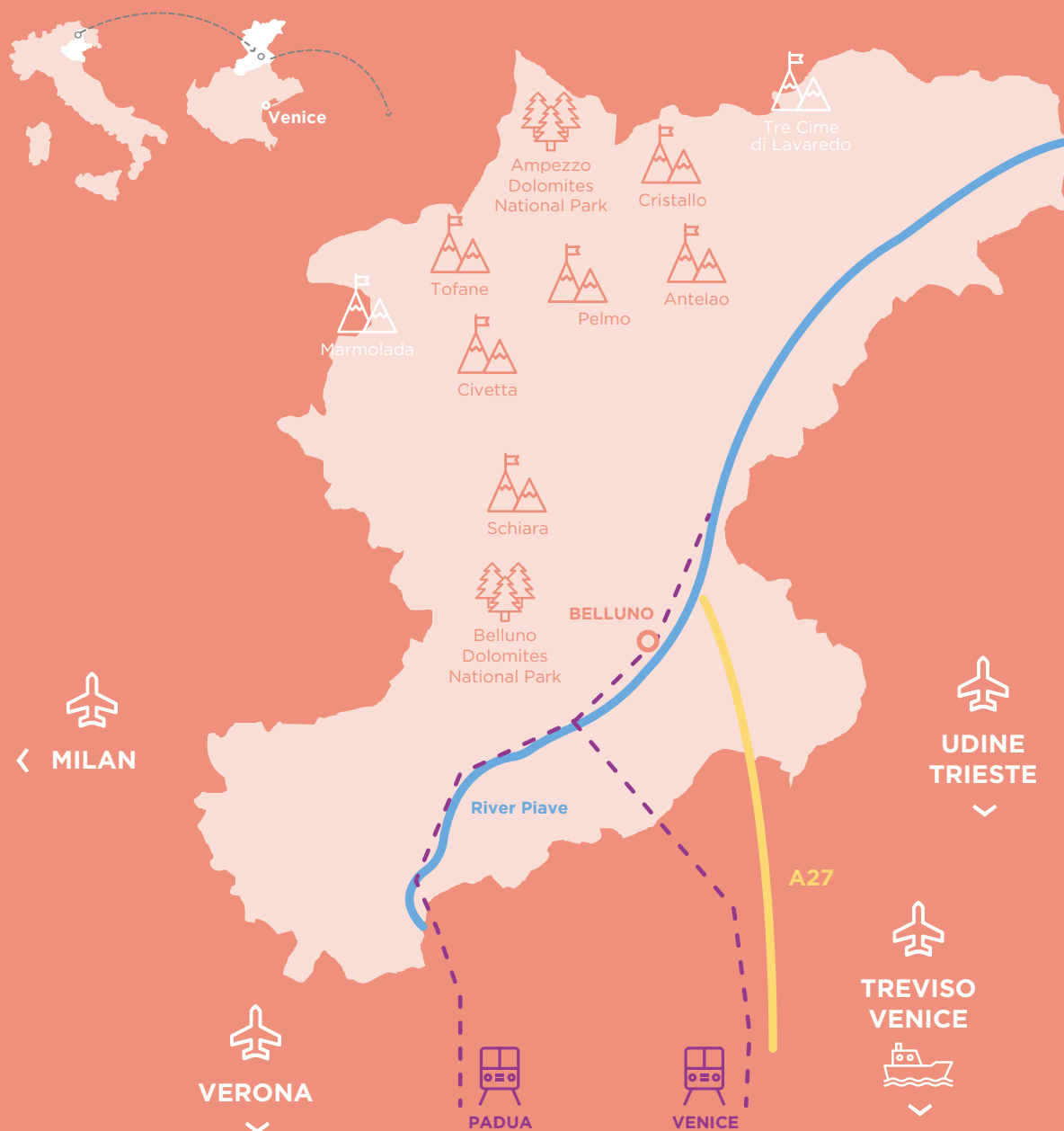
A real jewel with turquoise waters in the woods of the Valbelluna. You can reach it with a 20/30 minutes walk from the Zumelle Castle. A stroll that starts in the middle of the wood and continues along the stones of the Rui stream. An extraordinary and gently beautiful place, whose integrity is entrusted to everyone's responsible approach. We advise to use comfortable shoes.



VILLAGES

Mel — This sunny and old village dominates the Piave valley, quietly settled on a hill. The big central square, named after Pope Luciani, is an outdoor lounge where it's great to have a coffee, overlooked by many buildings from different ages, a lasting evidence of the splendour that this village had during the centuries. Just outside the main village, it's possible to visit the Paleovenetian necropolis, discovered between 1958 and 1963 and backing up to an age between the 8th and 5th century B.C..





HOW TO GET THERE

TRAIN

The two rail links that goes to the Belluno province are Venice Santa Lucia — Belluno — Calalzo Pieve di Cadore Cortina and Padua Centrale — Feltre — Calalzo Pieve di Cadore Cortina

CAR

A27 Venice — Belluno exit Belluno and Pian di Vedoia

FLIGHT

The nearest airports are Venice "Marco Polo" (95 km), Treviso "Antonio Canova" (75 Km), Verona "Valerio Catullo" (175 km), Trieste "Ronchi dei Legionari" (155 km), Milan "Malpensa" (360 km)

SHIP

Venice Tourist Harbour (110 km)