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## THIRD CIRCULAR - CONFERENCE REGISTRATION



# THE 13<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MILITARY GEOSCIENCES

Peace follows war: geosciences, territorial impacts and  
post-conflict reconstruction

**PADOVA (ITALY), 24 - 28 JUNE 2019**

On behalf of the International Association of Military Geosciences (IAMG), we are pleased to invite you to take part in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Military Geosciences (ICMG).

The Conference will be held from Monday 24 to Friday 28 June 2019, at the [University of Padova](#) in northern Italy. The Conference is being organised on behalf of

the IAMG by the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World ([DiSSGeA](#)) and the Italian Society of Military Geography and Geology (S.I.G.G.Mi.).

A post-conference field Trip will be organized from Saturday 29 June to 4 July 2019 in the Dolomites (Italian Alps).



SIGN UP TO STAY INFORMED: [WWW.ICMG19.IT](http://WWW.ICMG19.IT)

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## KEY DATES

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**May 2018:** first circular

**December 2018/January 2019:** second circular

**January 2019/February 2019:** third circular

**15 February 2019:** abstract submission deadline

**15 March 2019:** abstract acceptance notification

**15 April 2019:** early registration deadline and payment

**15 May 2019:** late registration deadline and payment

**May 2019:** fourth and final circular

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## CONFERENCE VENUE

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The conference will be held at [\*\*Palazzo Bo\*\*](#), in Padova. The opening ceremony and the scientific sessions of the first day will be at the Aula Magna, the Great Hall,

where **Galileo Galilei** used to teach; then the conference will move to Aula Nieveo and Archivio Antico.



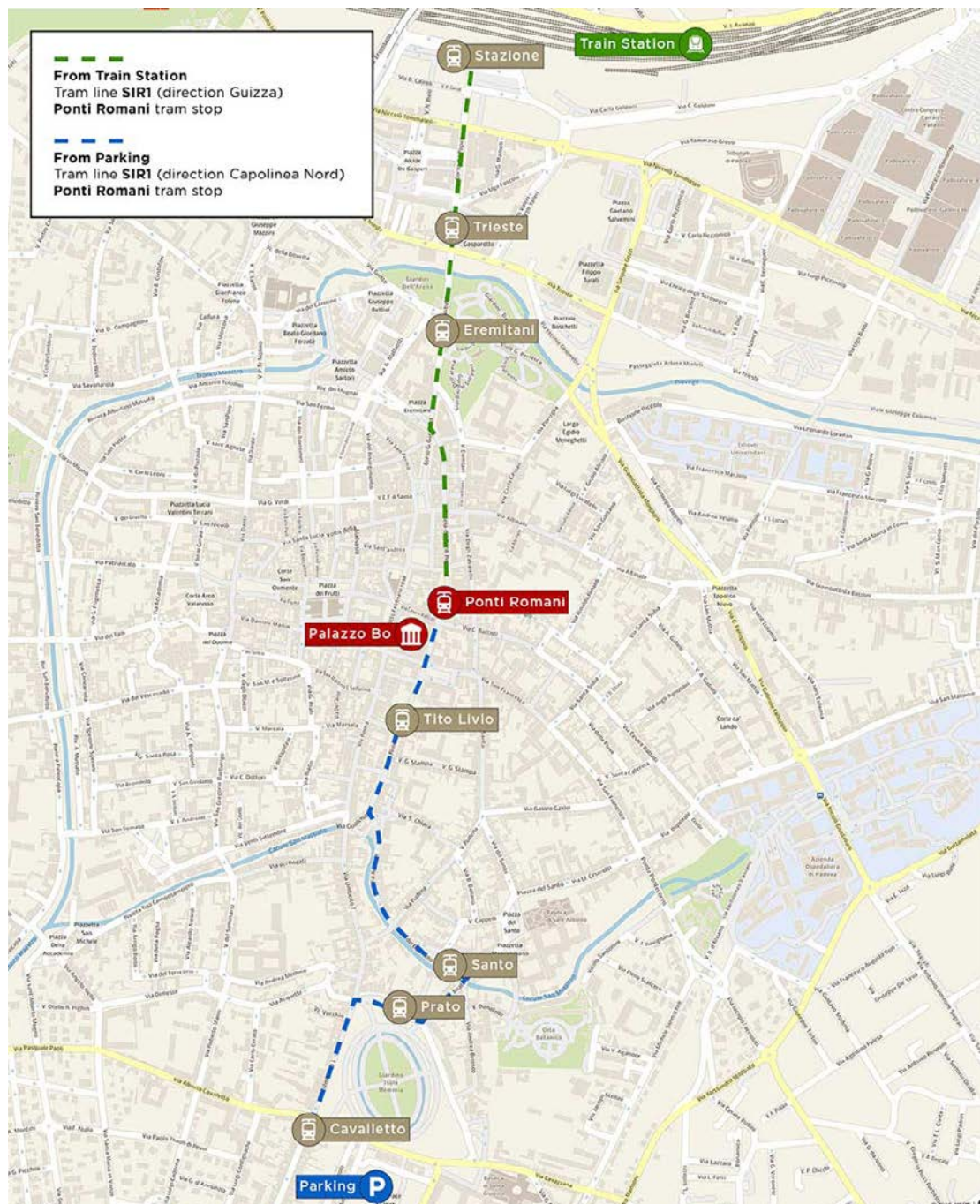


## HOW TO GET TO PALAZZO BO

The nearest airport to Padua is the [Marco Polo International Airport](#) (about 30 Km). Connections are provided by **shuttle bus** or **bus service** ([Busitalia](#)), running every half an hour to the Padua **train Station** ([Trenitalia](#); [Italo](#)), which is close to the city center. From there you can reach Palazzo Bo on foot in about 15 minutes. There is also a **tram service** – Nr. 1 line - running every 10 minutes from the station to the vicinity of Palazzo Bo (Ponti Romani tram stop).

Palazzo Bo lies in a limited traffic area (ZTL) where **cars are not allowed** without a special permission. The nearest parking lots can be found in Prato della Valle area (15 minutes, on foot). Alternative airports are [Treviso](#) and [Bologna](#).

**Each participant is required to book his own hotel.** Take a look to the [list of the hotels](#) near the conference venue on our website.



## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### **Battlefields' wines: vineyards, wines and winemakers from the old war fronts.**

Participants will be welcomed on Sunday 23 June inside the prestigious Palazzo Wollemborg, home of the Museum of Geography. The event will consist of a guided tasting of 5 wines and products on the battlefields of the twentieth century world conflicts. The tasting will be conducted by Mauro Varotto (Professor of Food Geography at the University of Padova and

scientific director of the Museum of Geography).

### **Touristic tour**

A touristic tour will be proposed for **accompanying persons** to Venice, Verona and Padova on **Monday 24** afternoon, **Tuesday 25** and **Friday 28**.

**Programs and schedule subject to change at any time in bad weather conditions.**

ARRIVAL DAY - PADOVA Sunday 23 June	DAY 1 - PADOVA Monday 24 June	DAY 2 - PADOVA Tuesday 25 June
<b>18.00 - 20.00</b>  Icebreaker at the Geographical Section of the DiSSGeA Department (Wollemborg Palace). <b>Geography Museum</b> visit & wine tasting and cheese from the alpine battlefields.	<b>09.00 - 13.00</b>  Opening Ceremony & Key Notes.  <b>14.00 - 18.00</b>  Scientific Session.  <b>Evening</b>  Visit to the <b>Cappella degli Scrovegni</b> and/or <b>Padova City Center</b> .	<b>09.00 - 13.00</b>  Scientific session.  <b>14.30 - 16.00</b>  Poster Session.  <b>Late afternoon</b>  Visit to <b>"3rd Army" Military Museum</b> .
DAY 3 - VENEZIA Wednesday 26 June	DAY 4 - MONTEBELLUNA Thursday 27 June	DAY 5 - PADOVA Friday 28 June
<b>All day</b>  Mid-conference excursion: Venice islands and fortifications. Transfer by bus to Venice. Visit of <b>Forte Carpenedo</b> . Boat tour in the lagoon with lunch on board or in a lagoon island. Visit to the <b>Lazzaretto Nuovo island, Fort S. Andrea</b> (from the boat), free tour (on your own) at <b>San Mark Square</b> and/or <b>Naval Museum</b> . Return to Padova by boat and and group bus or by train (participants may spend the late afternoon and evening in Venice and return by train to Padova on their own).	<b>10.00 - 13.00</b>  Bus transfer to Montello Hill. Scientific session.  <b>Afternoon</b>  Field trip to the battlefield and visit of the <b>WW1 Sacrarium</b> (military cemetery). Visit at the <b>Memoriale Veneto della Grande Guerra</b> (Great War Memorial).  <b>Dinner</b>  Conference Dinner at a local country house with wine tasting.	<b>09.00 - 15.00</b>  Scientific sessions.  <b>15.00 - 17.00</b>  IAMG Biennial General Meeting.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION GUIDE

Please read carefully all the information below. In case of any doubts please use **icmg19italy@gmail.com**

for any questions regarding conference registration you might have.

### BASIC RULES

**Paid registration is a prerequisite for becoming a conference participant.**

Also, **authors of accepted submissions are obliged to register for the conference and pay the fee before the deadline** (Early registration deadline and payment: 15 april 2019, late registration deadline and payment: 15 may 2019 - registration fees will be increased by 20%).

At least one author of each paper or poster should participate at the conference and make a paid registration. In case any accepted paper or poster does not have the accompanying registration of at least one of its authors, it will be removed from the conference program.

**To register, visit the [registration page](#) of our website.**

### CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

Any refund request should be made directly to [icmg19italy@gmail.com](mailto:icmg19italy@gmail.com).

**Cancellations will be subject to a charge of 25% of the registration fees** before 15 May 2019 (the

date of sending the email with the refund request).

**No refunds will be provided after 15 May 2019.**

Replacements by colleagues, i.e. transfer of the registration at no extra cost, are much welcome.

### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

If you have diet requirements (vegetarian, allergies...) or need any other specific facilities

(wheelchair access ...), do not hesitate to inform the ICMG19 secretary ([icmg19italy@gmail.com](mailto:icmg19italy@gmail.com)).

### FEES

The conference fee covers all the lunches, coffee breaks, entrance to museums from 24 to 28 June 2019. The fees also covers: icebreaker on Sunday 23 June; mid-conference trip on Wednesday 26 June: bus & boat from/to Padova, lunch, entrance tickets, no-host dinner); off site conference at the Great War Memorial in Montebelluna on Thursday 27 June:

museum entrance, lunch, conference dinner, bus from/to Padova (all included).

The conference fee doesn't cover any costs of accommodation and travelling to/ from Padova.

Conference fees can be paid by credit card. Once payment is received, an official invoice will be issued.

### DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT & PERSONALITY / IMAGE RIGHTS

By filling out the registration form, the participant gives consent that ICMG19 can process the data provided within the framework of the conference and allow photographs to be made during the conference. This includes, unless registered participants object, all handling needed for the applicant's participation at the event and for the drafting of a list of participants which will be distributed at the conference, and placing photographs in the pictures gallery accessible only by participants, in the ICMG19 newsletter

or selecting some for articles on the conference in a journal or newspaper, or in any other web/printed publication.

Right of access: applicants have a right to access and ask for changing or deleting their personal data, which will be kept by ICMG19.

ICMG19 would like to contact you occasionally to keep you informed of future relevant information. If you do not wish us to do this, please ask to be removed from our general distribution list.

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## POST CONFERENCE EXCURSION

### ITALIAN ALPS FROM WW1 TO COLD WAR

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During the tour participants will visit the **battlefields, museums, memorials and cemeteries** of the **Italian Alps** and **Piave frontline**. The tour includes several WW1 glacial “White War” sites, including high mountain emplacements (up to 3,400 m asl), mine warfare sites, fortresses, military tunnels, and the largest Memorials and Military Museums of Northern Italy. Most of the battlefields are in the [Dolomites](#), probably the most famous mountains of the alpine range which is in turn reflected in its status as a [UNESCO World Heritage area](#).

**Safety:** the excursion organizers would like to highlight that many of these sites are at altitude and cover rugged, mountainous terrain. Therefore, those with medical conditions are responsible for seeking medical guidance prior to participation. Participants suffering from vertigo or high blood pressure (in one case we will reach 3400 m asl and many alpine passes are at altitudes above 2000 m asl) must carefully evaluate their state of health.

**Insurance:** it is up to individual participants to ensure a travel insurance adequate to cover mountain activities.

**Transportation:** 22-seater or 28-seater bus is used throughout the journey. In the case of the ascent to Monte Piana, off-road vehicles such as Toyota Land Cruiser or similar will be used. We will also use cable ways and chairlifts.

**Meals:** All meals are served in local restaurants, as packed lunch or hotel. Mineral water will be available for both meals and transfers.

**Overnights:** 3 \* / 4 \* category hotel.

**Hiking difficulty:** travel of great historical-cultural and landscape interest. **Overall easy and suitable for everyone**, by bus on mountain roads and with a couple of long transfers up to 2.5 hours but through majestic scenery. The walking trails require proper mountain equipment: appropriate clothing and sturdy and comfortable footwear, suitable for dirt, hat and sunglasses, sunscreen, windbreaker, warm cap and gloves.

**Hiking trails are generally easy, on wide paths. All sites are reached directly from the bus or from the cable car.** Some sites present two options, it is up to each participant to follow one group or another:

- **easy trail**, maximum 20 minutes on foot, very low denivelation, also suitable for children (alternatively visit to a museum)
- **path for more experienced hikers**, walking for one/two hours, higher denivelation, generally suitable for children (parents watching!).

We will provide more detailed information before the Conference.

Field trips programs and schedule are subject to change at any time in bad weather conditions or in case of logistic impediment.

**The field trip is limited to 14 - 30 participants. You will be asked to register asap and to pay only upon reaching the minimum number of 14 participants (deadline: 15 April 2019).**

## EXCURSION PROGRAM

<p><b>DAY 1</b> Saturday 29 June</p> <p>Transfer from Padova to Trento</p> <hr/> <p><b>Cogollo del Cengio</b> war track*</p> <hr/> <p><b>Thunder Base</b> (Cold War American base)</p> <hr/> <p>Overnight in Trento</p>	<p><b>DAY 2</b> Sunday 30 June</p> <p>Transfer from Trento to <b>Marmolada Glacier</b></p> <hr/> <p>Cableway to Mount Marmolada</p> <hr/> <p><b>Serauta</b> defensive Italian positions (field excursion)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Passo Fedaia War Museum</b></p> <hr/> <p>Overnight in Arabba</p>	<p><b>DAY 3</b> Monday 1 July</p> <p>Transfer from Cortina d'Ampezzo to Lagazuoi</p> <hr/> <p>Cableway to <b>Cinque Torri Hut</b> and WW1 trenches</p> <hr/> <p>Cableway to <b>Lagazuoi</b> high mountain battlefield</p> <hr/> <p>Descent by cableway or by foot through a system of WW1 galleries and fortifications</p> <hr/> <p>Visit of the <b>Forte Tre Sassi museum</b></p> <hr/> <p>Overnight in Arabba</p>
<p><b>DAY 4</b> Tuesday 2 July</p> <p>Transfer from Cortina d'Ampezzo to <b>Monte Piana open air museum</b></p> <hr/> <p>4×4 mountain trip to Italian and Austrorungarian fortifications at <b>Monte Piana battlefield</b></p> <hr/> <p>Scenery view of the <b>Three Cime di Lavaredo</b></p> <hr/> <p>Visit to <b>Vajont Landslide</b></p> <hr/> <p>Overnight in Vittorio Veneto</p>	<p><b>DAY 5</b> Wednesday 3 July</p> <p>Transfer from Vittorio Veneto to the Cold war bunkers at Savogna and WW1 site of <b>Mount S. Michele</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Redipuglia</b> (Biggest WW1 Memorial; Memorial of Redipuglia)</p> <hr/> <p>Transfer to Trieste</p>	<p><b>DAY 6</b> Thursday 4 July</p> <p>Transfer to the Venice International Airport, to Venice and to Padova.</p>

\*Due to a heavy storm that interested Veneto and Trentino-Alto Adige regions, this site is now close to visitors. In case it will not be open on 29 June,

participants will visit the Asiago Plateau, one of the bloodiest battlefields during WWI





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WHAT YOU WILL VISIT  
DURING THE CONFERENCE





## GEOGRAPHY MUSEUM

### Padua

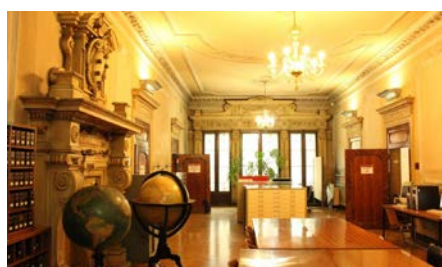
The idea of a Museum of Geography at the University of Padua originates to enhance and keep together the geographical heritage accumulated in over 140 years of research and didactics, after the establishment of the first Italian Chair of Geography in 1872.

The aim of the Museum consists in revitalizing the relationship between Universities and civil society by combining enhancing procedures with the promotion of those aspects of geography made up of engaging practices and pressing topical themes.

Over the years in Padua, geographical research and teaching has built up a unique heritage consisting of

both a tangible and intangible sections. The first includes books, atlases, maps, terrain models, globes, instruments and photographs. The second consists of research practices, which have become a characteristic of the school having been constantly applied over the years and of the related anecdotal evidence.

The Museum of Geography is located at the first floor of the Wollemborg Palace, seat of the DiSSGeA Section of Geography. At the same address, between 1984 and 2011, was located the University Department of Geography, the first and only in Italy where human and physical geography cohabited.





## SCROVEGNI CHAPEL

Padua

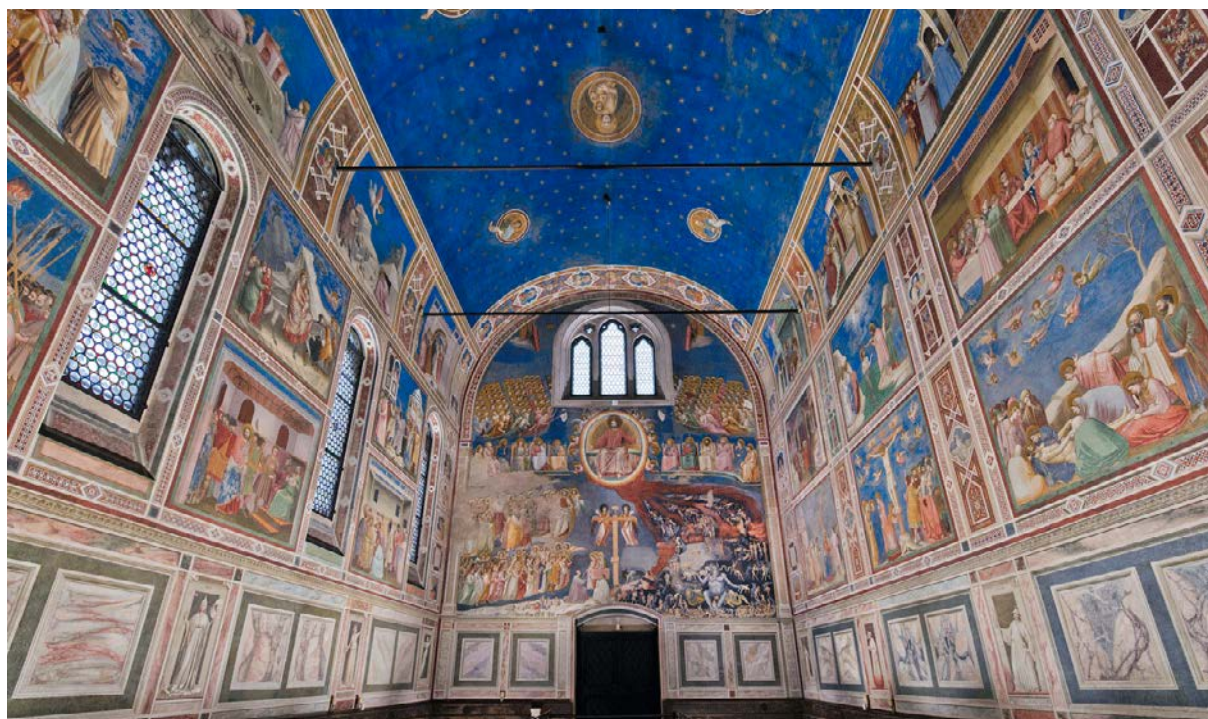
The Scrovegni Chapel, dedicated to St. Mary of the Charity, frescoed between 1303 and 1305 by Giotto, upon the commission of Enrico degli Scrovegni, is one of the most important masterpieces of Western art. The frescoes, which narrate events in the lives of the Virgin Mary and Christ, cover the entire walls. On the wall opposite the altar is the grandiose Universal Judgement, which concludes the story of human salvation.

The chapel was originally attached to the Scrovegni family palace, built after 1300, following the elliptical outline of the remains of the Roman arena.

The Chapel was acquired by the City of Padua in 1880, and the vulnerable frescoes were subjected to several specialized restoration operations during the 19th and 20th centuries. From the 1970s until today, thanks to

close collaboration between the city administration, cultural heritage authorities and the Istituto Centrale per il Restauro, the state of the building, the quality of the air in it, polluting factors, and the state of conservation of the frescoes themselves have all been subjected to careful study and monitoring. The addition of the new access building, with its special air-conditioned waiting-room, means that even great influxes of visitors can enter the Chapel and admire Giotto's masterpiece without further jeopardizing its fragile condition in any way.

The latest checks, which show that the condition of the frescoes is now stable, have allowed them to be restored further - delicate operations undertaken by the Istituto Centrale per il Restauro - thanks to an agreement between the City of Padua and the Italian Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali.





## PADUA CITY CENTER

### Padua

Padua is located in north-eastern Italy, 20 minutes from Venice. It is close to the beaches of the Adriatic Sea and to the Dolomites, one of the most scenic regions of the Alps.

It hosts the University of Padua, founded in 1222, where later Galileo Galilei was a lecturer between 1592

and 1610.

The city is picturesque, with a dense network of arcaded streets opening into large communal piazze, and many bridges crossing the various branches of the Bacchiglione, which once surrounded the ancient walls like a moat.





## "3<sup>rd</sup> ARMY" MILITARY MUSEUM

Padua

The Museum of the Third Army at Padua is housed in the 15th-century Palazzo Camerini, where cardinal Pietro Bembo lived. It holds important items belonged to Emanuele Filiberto, Duke of Aosta and Commander of the Italian Army. The museum collections include

photographs, documents and maps on World War I military operations mostly related to the area of Carso and the lower reaches of river Piave. Also on display are rich collections of arms, newspapers of the time, uniforms and several pieces of trench equipment.



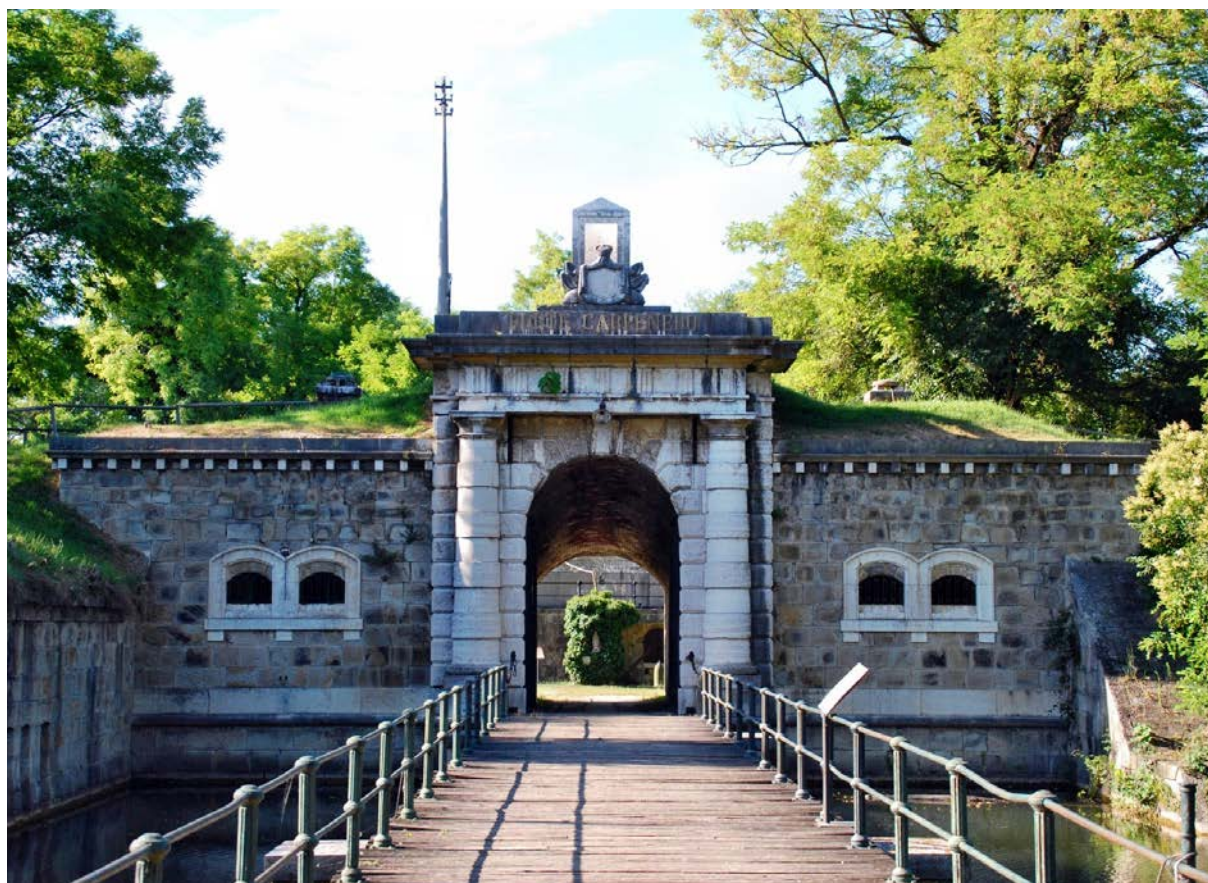


# FORTE CARPENEDO

## Venice

This fortification stands on an area that was initially the ancient forest of Valdemare, dating back over 3000 years ago, guarded by the Venetian Republic for the military Arsenal. This derelict forest starts to disappear with the construction of Forte Carpenedo (or Vallon) between 1887 and 1890. Similar to the previous twin fortresses in Brendole and Tessera, Forte Carpenedo follows the Tunkler model (Andreas Tunkler being the designer), which consists of a six-sided polygon surrounded by a moat and earth masses that entirely cover

the wall structures on the front line. The fortification had to appear like an imperceptible mound of land without any tall vegetation on the horizon. The neoclassical rear access portal decorated with the emblem of the House of Savoy and the four defence moats where the machine guns were positioned to keep the moat under control are the only visible parts. Like Forte Marghera, Forte Carpenedo is also transformed into a logistics structure (it becomes a powder store) and other new structures are modified and implemented.





# LAZZARETTO NUOVO ISLAND

## Venice

Situated at the very entry of the Lagoon (3 Km north-east from Venice, just in front of St. Erasmo littoral), since ancient times, as it was located along the lagoon waterway that from Ravenna arrived to Altino, the island was used for strategic reasons, controlling the water ways to the inland.

In 1468 by decree of Senate of Serenissima, a lazaret was found on the Vigna Murata island with tasks of prevention from contagion. The lazaret was named “Novo” (new) to distinguish it from the existing one called “Vecchio” (old), set close to the Lido, where evident cases of plague were admitted.

The island became a place of “contumacy” (quarantine) for ships arriving from various Mediterranean ports, suspected to plague infected.

During the eighteenth century, the island’s medical use came to an end. Under Napoleonic rule, and later under Austrian control, it was used as part of the lagoon military defense system.

Used by the Italian army until 1975 and then abandoned, the Lazzaretto Nuovo is one of the few abandoned islands of the Venice lagoon





## S. ANDREA FORT

### Venice

Fort S. Andrea, or Castelnuovo, was built during the first half of the XVIth century, incorporating the only part that remained of a previously fortified constructon, its old central stronghold, which characteries the fort today.

Fort S. Andrea was the work of the architect Michele Sanmicheli, form Verona, who designed a number of civil and military buildings throughout the Venetian Republic, which are still well-known today.

It stands on a sandy stretch of land in front of the mouth of Lido harbour, the main entrance from the sea to the lagoon and to the city of Venice.

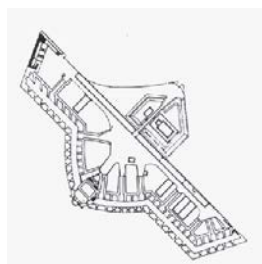
the siting of its cannons near the waterside made the intrusion of any enemy ships into the city almost impossible, and it was also reinforced by its close made

link with Fort S. Nicolò overlooking it. the latter, was also built in the XVIth Century, on the previous site of Castelvechio, a mediaeval building of which no trace remains.

Because of its important strategic position at the entrance to the lagoon, the fort was planned and constructed with a combination of tecnical-military features, which remained valid for more than three centuries, and impressive aesthetic features.

This latter aspect was related to questions of political order linked to the prestigious public image that the Venetian Republic wanted to promote of itself.

This led it construct the majestic portal at the front, which still appears impressive to present day visitors.



## NAVAL MUSEUM

### Venice

Since 1600, the Venice Naval Historical Museum is the place dedicated to the splendor of the Venetian naval tradition. The museum is hosted in a eleventh century palace in Campo San Biagio (Arsenale), its collection is located in five levels, for a total of 42 exhibition rooms. The Ships Pavilion, now housing a detached section of the Venice Naval Historical Museum collection of historic ships, consists of three serially arranged units, and of a fourth one, of similar size, orthogonal to the first ones. The building was built in the mid-sixteenth Century as an oars workshop and storage facility. Shortly after its completion in 1577, it was temporarily adapted to house the Great Council, the main government body of the city, following the disastrous fire that had destroyed much of the Palazzo Ducale, making it

useless for a long time. The rooms basically retained their function of specialized workshop for the production of oars, supported by a blacksmith workshop and storage spaces, until the mid-nineteenth Century. Following the reorganization of the Arsenal started after 1866, when Venice was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, the premises were used as storehouses and workshops by the Military Engineers. In this period the roofing was restored, with the introduction of an interesting bidirectional system of iron ties which integrated the wooden roof trusses. Since 1980, the area of the oars workshops has been known by the name of “Ships Pavilion”. It houses vessels of great historical importance as an annex of the museum.





## SAN MARK SQUARE

### Venice

Piazza San Marco, often known in English as St Mark's Square, is the principal public square of Venice, Italy, where it is generally known just as la Piazza ("the Square"). All other urban spaces in the city (except the Piazzetta and the Piazzale Roma) are called campi

("fields"). The Piazzetta ("little Piazza/Square") is an extension of the Piazza towards the lagoon in its south east corner. The two spaces together form the social, religious and political centre of Venice and are commonly considered together.





## WW1 SACRARIUM

### Nervesa della Battaglia (Treviso)

Montello is a hill in the province of Treviso, Veneto, northern Italy, and the site of a World War I battle.

Since December 1917, Austro-Hungarian and Italian armies were facing on the banks of the Piave River.

From 15th to 23th June 1918, the Austrians, with 58 divisions, launched a major offensive in the region Montello. They managed to cross the Piave river and advanced a few kilometres but there, they met a strong Italian resistance.

Due to very bad weather conditions, large quantities of water descended from the Alps and enlarged the river. In addition with the effects of artillery, the floods scattered the boat-bridges. The troops who passed on the southern bank of the Piave river were taken into a trap

and Borojevic, the Austrian Chief Commander, had resolved to order his troops to withdraw, with heavy losses on both sides : 150,000 men on the Austrian side, (including 24,000 prisoners).

What the Italians call the Solstice battle was the last offensive of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Indeed, as a result of this expensive military failure, a mutiny broke out : this was the beginning of the disintegration of the Empire.

Designed by Happy Non in Rome, the sanctuary was completed in 1935. It houses 9,325 bodies, which only 6,100 could be identified...

With its huge tower square, opened on the sky, the sanctuary is visible from far.



## — VENETO MEMORIAL OF THE GREAT WAR —

Montebelluna (Treviso)

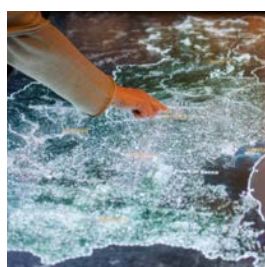
Located in the monumental complex of Villa Correr Pisani of Montebelluna, the Veneto War Memorial (MEVE) is an interactive and multimedia space dedicated to the conflicts and events that have marked the last century of our history since the First World War.

With its 2,300 square meters of exhibition it offers a new way of looking at war in relation to the environment, landscapes, equipment and men who have been the protagonists with the aim of interpreting our present. Born on the model of the Caen Memorial in France, it is a unique opportunity at national level to reflect on our contemporaneity and on the legacies of a conflict that has changed forever the history and behavior of millions of people.

A contemporary, experiential and emotional approach characterizes the exhibition itinerary. The few, “totemic” objects are part of an assembling storytelling where the digital component, the virtual reality, the immersive installations, the important filmographic documentation and the sound-design make it possible to live a unique, touching and always different experience.

All the didactic activities, starting from the Great War, intend to offer a reading of the reality and of the phenomena affecting the contemporaneity, contributing to develop a critical thought in the students and sensitizing the value of Peace and integration among peoples.

The first world war thus becomes an opportunity to re-trace 100 years of history.







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## COGOLLO DEL CENGIO

Province of Vicenza

Among the peculiarities of the territory of Altopiano dei Sette Comuni there is the importance from a historical point of view. The route of Monte Cengio leads hikers to explore one of the most spectacular landscapes of World War I.

The location is ideal for those wishing to combine an undemanding with a visit to a place of high historical value, located in a location from which you can admire one of the most beautiful landscapes of the plateau.

The hike is considered easy hiking, walking even by non-experts. The first stretch of the route (access to the top through so-called “muskets”) is not suitable for mountain biking, you can still access the upper part using the road.

It is necessary to have a flashlight given the numerous steps inside tunnels.



## THUNDER BASE

### Folgaria (province of Trento)

Between 1966 and 1977 the Passo Coe – Monte Toraro missile base was active in Malga Zonta, at 1543 m altitude; this was one of the twelve bases that were set up by NATO in the Italian North-East area between the '60s and the '90s of last century to oppose the Warsaw Pact ones.

Here, today, Base Tuono tells us about the nuclear risk we ran during the Cold War.

When the former launch area was finally demolished

and the clearance and re-naturalization of the area began, the Town of Folgaria decided to preserve one of the three launch areas, the Alpha one, for educational, historical and cultural purposes.

Thanks to the participation of the Autonomous Province of Trento, the cultural support of the Museo Storico del Trentino and the collaboration of the Italian Air Force, after the hangar, bunker, radar and section panel were restored, Base Tuono, as it was called in military communications of the time, was finally born.





## MARMOLADA GLACIER

Between the provinces of Belluno and Trento

The highest mountain in the Dolomite range of the Alps at 3342 meters, the Marmolada Massif or “group” comprises of a vast northern glacier and a soaring, semi-circle of cliffs and peaks on the sunny southern side. Astride the old pre1915 border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Kingdom of Italy, this icy giant became a major battlefield of the First World War’s Gebirgskrieg or Italian front.

Marmolada had all characteristics and dangers unique to high mountain warfare including the thin atmosphere [70% of sea-level at 3,000 meters in altitude]; ice, snow and scree; and frequent blizzards or dense fog banks covering attacks. Avalanches, falling rock and lightning; long range shooting duels, artillery and hand to hand fighting; as well as exposure to extreme low temperatures and high winds killed men in equal numbers. Injuries such as frostbite, snow blindness, altitude sickness and malnutrition caused by the severe climate competed with the usual war wounds, disease and stress- especially for troops that must stay on position and not let down their guard. Patrols, observation posts

and assault units resembled mountaineers as much as soldiers. Supply was carried out by backbreaking corvee [on the backs of men and mules] and telepherique [both manpowered and motor driven cable-cars.] Despite being surrounded by frozen water, this vital need of humans was difficult to obtain or store.

Italian strategy -- ambitious yet thought feasible -- was to control the peaks and passes to eventually flank and cut off the Austrians. With the roads to Bozen [Bolzano] and the Brenner Pass captured, the heart-land of the Austro-Hungarian Empire would lay open. With most of their army in Russia, the Austrians concentrated on defending their Empire’s lofty southern flank. On Marmolada, between the Italian and Austrian forces, was a vast no-man’s-land of glacier crevasse and bergschrund or soaring rock cliffs, needle-like arêtes and knife-edge ridges with their blocking “gendarmes.” All these are great challenges for mountaineers defining war on this Alpine front as somewhere between unique and incredible.



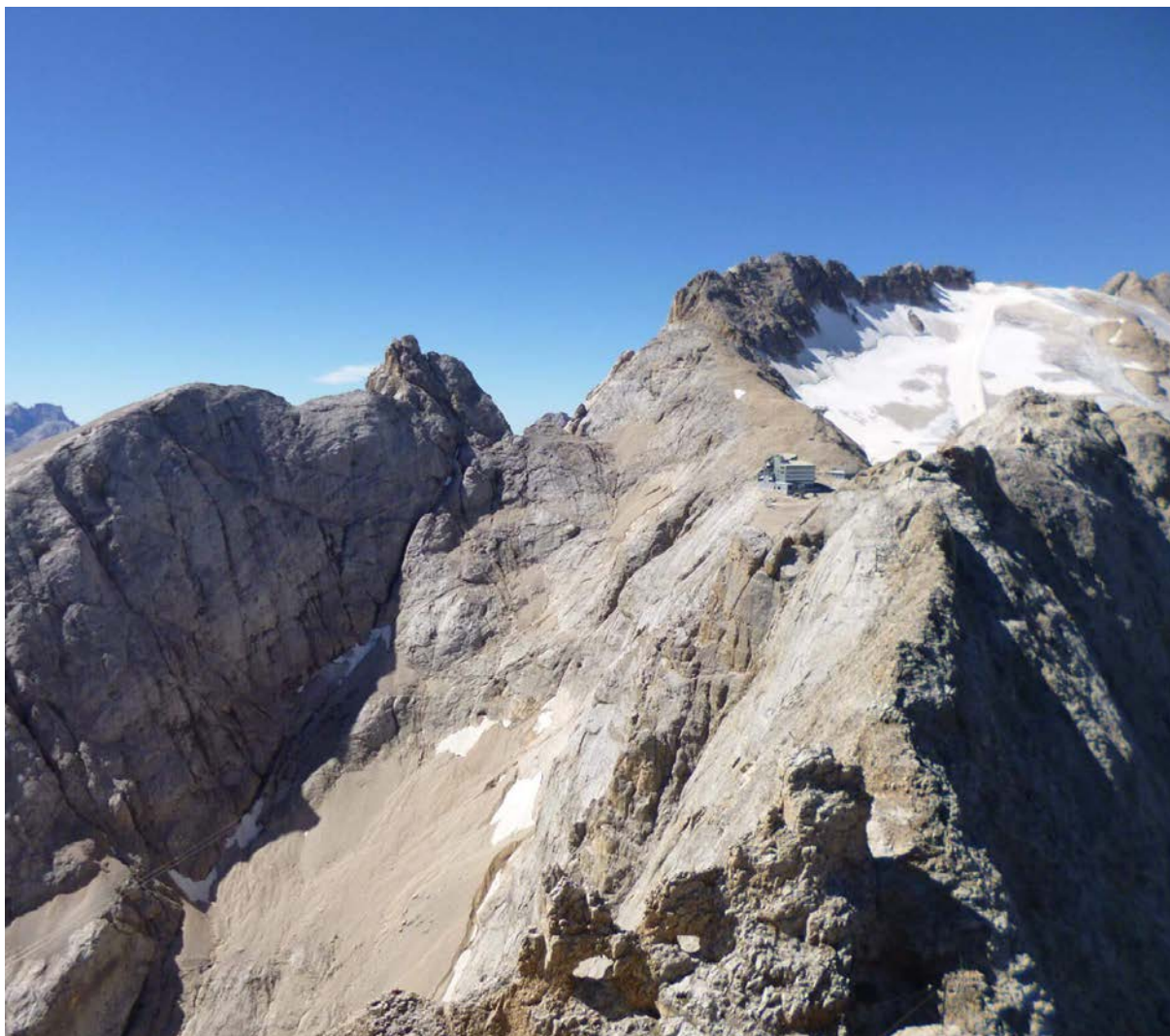
## SERAUTA

Between the provinces of Belluno and Trento

At 2950 m. a.s.l., at the middle of the cable car of Marmolada, the Evening Monumental Area

In this area the Italian Soldiers lived from May 1916 to November 1917, building a big fort.

These positions that are carved into the rocky mass have been made accessible to visitors. The area of the gun, the shelter, the station of the cableway, the infirmary.





## PASSO FEDAIA WAR MUSEUM

Between the provinces of Belluno and Trento

The Marmolada glacier, a jealous guardian for nearly a century, has returned little by little considerable evidence of the First World War following its rapid retreat in recent years.

From 1915, Marmolada became the highest battlefield on the entire Dolomite front and one of the highest of the whole war.

Since 2004, Andrea De Bernardin has curated an

exhibition that collects First World War artefacts found on the mountain or collected from the homes of the valleys below. The collection consists of about 700 pieces: the sewing kits supplied to every soldier; dog tags; medics' scalpels; weapons, including a Schwarzlose and a Maxim machine gun, and a 30.5 cm projectile fired from a Penia mortar in Val di Fassa; a field telephone; a still-working Erika typewriter; a trench periscope; and a large display of caps. The theme of the "White War" is evoked from examples of personal equipment.





## CINQUE TORRI HUT

Cortina d'Ampezzo (province of Belluno)

Cinque Torri, as all the other mountains in the area, are made of Dolomia, with a particular pale grey colour. The group is formed by five towers (which give the name to the mountain) with a maximum elevation of 2.361 m (Torre Grande).

This area was theater of conflicts between Italian and Austro-Hungarian troops during World War I; countless testimonies of the fighting and of the war shelters built by the Italian army are present and have been recently restructured to create interesting historical itineraries.





## LAGAZUOI

### Cortina d'Ampezzo (province of Belluno)

On 23rd May 1915, the Kingdom of Italy declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Italian Army occupied Cortina, thus ending four centuries of Hapsburg Empire rule there.

The Austro-Hungarian troops withdrew onto the Lagazuoi to defend the Badia Valley and South Tyrol.

From that moment onward, the mountains of the Lagazuoi 5 Torri area became the theatre of an incredible war fought at high altitude.

The trenches of the two opposing armies wound along the ridges.

Today, thanks to the collaboration of our erstwhile enemies, the Italian and Austro-Hungarian emplacements on the mountains have been restored.

Out of this arose the most widely extended museum of the Great War, comprising the three open-air museums of the Lagazuoi, the 5 Torri and the Sasso di Stria, and the Museum of the Tre Sassi Fort.





## FORTE TRE SASSI MUSEUM

Passo di Valparola (province of Belluno)

The Tre Sassi Fort, at Valparola Pass, is one of the most interesting testimonies to the Great War on the Dolomite front.

It was built in 1897 to defend the southern confines of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and was subsequently modernised in 1910.

After only a few weeks of war, the fortress was hit, being damaged by bombs fired from the 5 Torri, and hence evacuated.

Today the Fort has been restructured and displays the soldiers' kits and the everyday objects they used.





### 3 CIME DI LAVAREDO

#### Auronzo di Cadore (province of Belluno)

On 23rd May 1915, the Kingdom of Italy declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Italian Army occupied Cortina, thus ending four centuries of Hapsburg Empire rule there.

The Austro-Hungarian troops withdrew onto the Lagazuoi to defend the Badia Valley and South Tyrol.

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## MONTE PIANA

Sesto alta (province of Bolzano)

Monte Piana is one of the most beautiful site to visit in the Dolomites, with its special shape and position that offer a spectacular 360 degrees view towards the most famous mountains around Auronzo di Cadore and Cortina d'Ampezzo - Tre Cime di Lavaredo, Paterno, Cadini di Misurina, Sorapiss, Cristallo, Croda Rossa ecc. - and over the Lake of Misurina at its feet. Monte Piana is also a special site of memory and history of the tragic events of last century: the World War fought on the Dolomites. Just on this mountain more then 14.000 soldiers died. Nowadays it's an engaging destination for whom that wants to visit the Open Air Museum of the

First World War , one of the most important witness of the battles fought on these mountains in the years 1915-1917. The museum consists of trench warfares, tunnels and emplacements located on the top of the mountain. The open air museum was realized thanks to the first work of the austrian Colonel Walter Schaumann, with his group "Friends of the Dolomites", and the following constant restoring and maintenance works of the "Friends of Monte Piana" and of the "Monte Piana Foundation".





## VAJONT LANDSLIDE

Province of Pordenone

The Vajont Dam is a disused dam, completed in 1959 in the valley of the Vajont River under Monte Toc, in the municipality of Erto e Casso, 100 km north of Venice, Italy. One of the tallest dams in the world, it is 262 metres high, 27 metres wide and 22.11 metres thick at the base and 191 metres wide and 3.4 metres thick at the top.

On 9 October 1963, during initial filling, a massive landslide caused a man-made megatsunami in the lake in which 50 million cubic metres of water overtopped the dam in a wave 250 metres high, leading to 1,910 deaths and the complete destruction of several villages

and towns.

The construction company and the Italian government initially disregarded early warning signs and reports describing the geological instability of Monte Toc on the southern side of the basin. The eventual attempt to safely control the landslide by lowering the lake level was too late. The dam remained almost intact and two thirds of the water was retained behind it, but the landslide was much larger than expected and the impact brought massive flooding and destruction to the Piave valley below.





## MOUNT S. MICHELE

Province of Gorizia

Mount San Michele, 275 metres high, the main Austro-Hungarian defence bastion on the Isonzo Karst, was fiercely contested between Italians and Austro-Hungarians already in the first year of the First World War due to its important position (the highest on the Karst Plateau).

In 1916 it was bloodily conquered and desperately protected by the heroic Italian infantrymen against the repeated and fierce enemy attacks: for this reason, in 1922 the top of Mount San Michele was declared a “Monumental Area”.

In the Monumental Area you will find several interesting constructions, some of which can be partly visited, such as the Cave of General Lukachich (currently cannot be visited), the Schönburg Tunnel and the Gun Tunnel of the Third Army.

Moreover, you will have the chance to visit the Historical Museum of Mount San Michele, which features war relics of that period and a rich photo and map documentation.

In the central room of the museum you will discover - in chronological order - the events of the six battles fought on Mount San Michele and the horrifying poison-gas attack of 26th June 1916 (the first poison-gas attack on the Italian front).

On the other hand, a side room recalls the reasons for which the 19 Gold Medals for Military Valour were awarded to the soldiers who died on Mount San Michele; moreover, other photographs, relics and documents celebrate the Fallen.





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## REDIPUGLIA

### Province of Gorizia

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The Memorial of Redipuglia is Italy's largest and most majestic memorial dedicated to the soldiers who fell in the Great War. Built on the slopes of Mt. Sei Busi and designed by architect Giovanni Greppi and sculptor Giannino Castiglioni, it was opened on 18th September 1938 after ten years of construction. This massive monument, also known as Memorial "of the Hundred Thousands", accommodates the remains of 100.187 soldiers who fell in battle in the surrounding areas; some of them had been initially buried on Colle Sant'Elia nearby.

Strongly advocated by the fascist regime, this monument intended to celebrate the sacrifice of the fallen soldiers as well as provide a dignified resting place to those fighters who could not be buried in the cemetery of the Undeclared. It is structured on three levels, symbolising the army descending from the sky, led by its Commander towards the Path of Heroes. On the top, three crosses evoke Mt. Golgotha and the crucifixion of Christ.

