

Trento and its Surroundings. The Dolomites

The Trentino Region has many interesting monuments scattered all around the territory: museums, castles and attractions. Visit <http://www.visittrentino.it/>

To find out more about the town of Trento visit www.comune.tn.it or www.apr.trento.it

Museums

BUONCONSIGLIO CASTLE www.buonconsiglio.it

Residence of the Princebishops from the end of the 13th century until the secularisation of the episcopate in 1803, it was originally built for purely defensive purposes. The military aspect of the Castle underwent huge modifications over the centuries that transformed it into one of the most complex fortified urban residences in the Alps. It was mainly thanks to the Princebishops (Giorgio Lichtenstein, Bernardo Clesio, Cristoforo Madruzzo, Francesco Alberti Poja) that the castle took on its present day appearance: starting from the end of the fourteenth century until the mid seventeenth century its original layout, the Palazzo Vecchio (Old castle) and the Torre d'Augusto tower had other parts added (Magno Palazzo, Giunta Albertiana). At the same time a few of the best artists of the period arrived in Trento, who were not allowed to work at the castle yet have left their mark in other buildings around the city.

A visit to the castle offers the possibility for an immersion in history from a military and artistic architectural point of view. Starting from the month cycle, a series of frescoes dated around 1400 and recognised at a European level as one of the most important international gothic pieces. Here the unknown artist probably of bohemian origins proposes a representation of both life in the court and ordinary life outside in each month. After there is a complete immersion in the Renaissance surrounded by exquisite pieces of art demonstrating the level of the artists who worked here.

Also to remember the prisons where during the First World War some irredentists were imprisoned (in the 19th century under the AustroHungarian emperor the castle was used as an army barracks). In 1973 with the passage of authority for Cultural Heritage Services from the state to the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Buonconsiglio became the Provincial Museum of Art; from 1992 it was named Castello del Buonconsiglio, provincial collections and monuments.

MART - MUSEUM OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART, TRENTO E ROVERETO

The building was constructed by the Madruzzo Prince Bishops of Trento in the 16th century. It hosts the best of the pre-1918 permanent collection. The two floors are also used for special temporary exhibitions.

Via R. da Sanseverino 45 – Ph. 0039.0461.234860 – www.mart.tn.it

The Cathedral

Trento's Cathedral is dedicated to S Vigilio and has ancient origins. There are in fact records that indicate the first church was built on the burial ground of this saint, martyred in the fifth century. It was then enlarged, whilst its present appearance is owed to Bishop Federico Vanga, who entrusted the redesigning of the cathedral to Adam d'Argogno in 1212. The positioning of the church was thanks to his plan. The construction, continued over the centuries by d'Arogno's descendants, underwent various changes with respect to the original project due both to the churches needs and the changes in construction techniques. The northern facade overlooking the main square features a great artistic richness especially with the Bishop's door so called because it was used during the Council of Trent by the Bishops coming in processions from the Castle to the Cathedral, as well as a rose window, called the Wheel of Fortune, which allegorically reminds us that a person's fortune can change from one day to the next.

The Dolomites

Ski Monte Bondone

If winter only means snow to you, then just 15 kilometres from Trento you will love the white slopes of Monte Bondone and its wide downhill ski runs where snow is a certainty thanks to the artificial snow system, an excellent snowpark and the vast and sunny Viote plain where you can enjoy cross-country skiing or go for adventurous snowshoe excursions.

www.ap.trento.it

Alpine skiing Madonna di Campiglio www.campigliodolomiti.it

Madonna di Campiglio and Pinzolo provide 150km (93mi) of slopes in the heart of the Dolomites Brenta Group, all served by fast, modern ski lifts.

From Madonna di Campiglio, you can also ski Folgarida Marilleva, for a total ski area of 120km (nearly 75mi).

Soon, with the opening of the Madonna di Campiglio-Pinzolo lift, the entire interconnected ski area will extend to the full 150km (93mi).

Madonna di Campiglio: 60km of runs (plus the 60km of the Folgarida-Marilleva area)

Pinzolo: 30km (18.6mi) of runs

Ski, snowboard and ski areas in Val di Fassa www.fassa.com

In winter, Val di Fassa drives ski and snowboard fans just crazy. Besides the Sellaronda (Four Passes Tour), 3 skitours, 4 snowparks, 220 km and 115 ski slopes always in perfect conditions thanks to the advanced snowmaking system, served by 86 up-to-date lifts which guarantee a fast and effective transportation to the highest altitudes. Val di Fassa is

one of the most complete and famous ski districts in the Dolomites with 9 different ski areas, linked to each other by means of slopes or skibus services: Belvedere-Pordoi, Ciampac, Fedaia-Marmolada, Col Rodella-Sella Pass, Buffaure, Catinaccio-Ciampedie and Costalunga Pass for the Val di Fassa/Carezza district (accessible with the Val di Fassa-Carezza or Dolomiti Superski passes), Alpe di Lusia-San Pellegrino-Falcade for the TreValli area (accessible with the TreValli or Dolomiti Superski ski-passes).

Moreover...

Paths for trekking, mountain bike tracks, cycle paths along the river and legendary hair-pin bends up in the mountains: this area offers an amazing open air gym to do sport and have fun in beautiful surroundings. It is not by chance that there are so many important sporting events.