



# The Ring of the Great War

Discover the first front lines in the Tarvisiano area



## THE PROJECT

The project “The Ring of the Great War” is conceived with the purpose of enhancing the historic and cultural heritage related to the First World War in different valleys, located in the far northeast corner of the region Friuli Venezia Giulia, which –at that time- were on opposing front lines. Nowadays -especially to younger generations- it may seem that those very long years of war did not had an unforgettable impact on the region. However, the World War I profoundly shaped the life of inhabitants, as well as their culture and their sense of confidence, leaving lasting effects on the territory, painful memories, separations from friends, displaced populations and -inevitably- victims on both sides.

On high mountain and at the bottom of the valley, and is intended to follow -as much as possible- the path of the first front lines and a core of historical information, to give to everybody the opportunity to understand better the emotions and feelings of people residing in these areas during the war, so that visitors can perceive the tangible and intangible aspects of their story.

The further objective is to remember the great efforts that both soldiers and prisoners made to realize the paths, trails and the mule tracks in a territory where they were almost absent, lending an heritage of historical artifacts and routes for those who would visit the Julian Alps in peacetime. Furthermore, the stories of survivors, even though telling about difficult times and sufferings of the time spent in hostile environments, contributed to the creation, in the European imaginary, of the idea that mountains offer fascinating landscapes.

Thus, we are deeply convinced that these signs and memories are to be examined, learnt and sometimes brought to life: to remember who traced and lived along them, to consciously learn the best part of this heritage.

*The Municipality of Tarvisio, fulfilling the role of the “lead partner”, implemented three project proposals, which have been subsidized through the financing biddings aimed at the realization and maintenance of thematic routes on the trails of the Great War organized by the region Friuli Venezia Giulia (resolution No. 2636 of 30 December 2014, No. 921 of 15 May 2015, and No. 1974 of 21 October 2016).*

*Several partners collaborated for the realization of the project proposal: the Mountain Community of Gemona del Friuli, the Municipalities of Dogna and Resia, the Association “Amici della Fortezza di Osoppo”, the Consorzio di Promozione Turistica del Tarvisiano, Sella Nevea e di Passo Pramollo and the regional CAI (Italian Alpine Club) contributed to the project, in collaboration with the Società Alpina delle Giulie, the Società Alpina Friulana and the managers of the Rifugi Celso Gilberti (Irene Pittino), Guido Corsi (Cristiano Martucci), Luigi Pellarini (Ennio Rizzotti) and Fratelli Grego (Renato Ben).*

*The Ring of the Great War is a project developed by Fulvio Caputo in cooperation with Emiliano Di Gion, Luisa Flora and Gianpiero Toniato.*

*CARTOGRAFIA © CASA EDITRICE TABACCO: AUT. 2095 del 13/03/17*

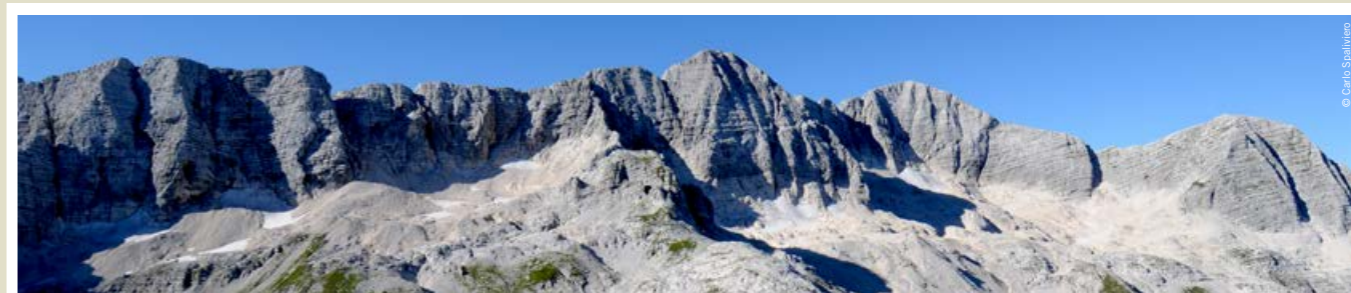
*The Ring of the Great War graphic novel is a project by Saul Darù and Luisa Flora. Please, find the full version on [www.tarvisiano.org](http://www.tarvisiano.org)*

# At the discovery of the first front lines with the Ring of the Great War

Valcanale and the others valleys in the far northeast of the region Friuli Venezia Giulia, which are now Italian, were at opposite sides during the years of the First World War. In the period of the war, the armies of the Kingdom of Italy and the Astro-Hungarian Empire completely transformed the territory, building constructions -then fallen into disuse-, but roads, mule tracks and paths still used today.

## However, which was the precise line of the two opposite sides, and where was the “no man’s land” in-between them?

The question is inevitable when you first encounter some of the various remains of the war -both at high or low altitude-. Nowadays it seems that no traces of those imaginary but bloody lines are left... The Ring of the First World War allows the visitor to walk along the first lines of the two armies and to visit quietly the once-disputed territories by intertwining the current alpine trails with the bike path Alpe Adria Radweg.



You can choose an itinerary according to your interests and abilities, cycling along the cycle path and discovering the quarterings in the valley or visiting the fortresses, the redoubts and the mule tracks at high altitude. You can find four mountain huts along this path “at the top”, where you can obtain information on the places and memories that the War embedded in surrounding environment.

# The Trail of the Soldiers

At the outbreak of the Great War part of the boundary between the Kingdom of Italy and the Astro-Hungarian Empire proceeded along the Pontebbana Valley, climbing to the western Julian Alps reaching the Jôf di Montasio, and then up to the ridge of Canin. The soaring mountain peaks of the Julian Alps were a difficult occupation for the troops: the uneven terrain and adverse climatic events were the main difficulties the two armies had to face on the alpine front. Due to the height of the mountain ranges, it became necessary to realize –as the war was going on- a well-developed network of routes, mule tracks, trails, cableways and refuges.

Up there, surrounded by breathtaking views, we can visit galleries, caves, trenches and precarious refuges of soldiers, accompanied by the timeless echo of the Alpini songs.



Please note: the description of the mountain paths is just explanatory; we recommend consulting the typographic maps, asking to the refuges' managers and to local guides for more detailed information.



# Rifugio Celso Gilberti



**ARRIVAL:** from Sella Nevea via cable car or proceeding along the CAI trails 635 starting to the right of the cable car, or 636 from the Piazzale Slovenia, which follows the path of the Great War mule track. Journey time of about 2 hours.

**MAIN ATTRACTIONS:** Monte Canin (m 2578), Monte Bila Pec (m 2146), Monte Forato (2498 m), Monte Rombon (2208 m), Monte Sart (2324 m).

**HISTORY:** The Agolzer building company of Pontebba realized the Rifugio Celso Gilberti, which was inaugurated 24 October 1934. The construction is dedicated to the young mountaineer from Udine, Celso Gilberti, who had tragically died on the eastern Paganella wall. During the Second World War, the refuge was partially destroyed at the hands of the German soldier that considered it a shelter for partisans. It was then rebuilt and inaugurated 29 October 1950, thanks to the contribution of SAF, the Gilberti family and further donations. The isolated stone building is located on an elevated position of the conca Prevala, in the northern slopes of the Canin group, integral part of the Natural Park of Julian Prealps. During the summer season, the mountain hut is starting point of many caving tours, climbing, crossings, climbing gyms and alpine routes of the massif. In wintertime it is an important refreshment point for skiers, mountaineers and all the snow lovers, in particular the fearless free riders. The hut is the ideal destination for the one who wants to spend a day in a wild -but quiet at the same time- surrounding, reading a book, and enjoying the sun and good food.

**CUISINE:** special attention goes to the gastronomic offer, i.e. traditional, deeply linked to the territory and enhanced by the use of local and seasonal products (herbs, products from Malga Montasio).



Open:  
from December to April,  
from June to September



Beds:  
30



Bathrooms:  
5 toilets, 2 showers



Services: public phone,  
guided themed tours,  
pets allowed



Altitude: 1850 m  
Mountain range: Canin  
Tabacco 019 «Alpi Giulie  
Occidentali - Tarvisiano»



Manager: Pittino Irene  
Ownership: SAF -  
Sezione di Udine CAI

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**[www.rifugiogilberti.com](http://www.rifugiogilberti.com)**





### **A** SELLA BILA PEC (Trail CAI 632)

- Features of the trail:*
- Departure: **Rifugio Gilberti**
  - Difficulty: **low**
  - Minimum altitude: **1850 m**
  - Maximum altitude: **2005 m**
  - Timing: **0,40 hours**

*Description:*  
Starting from Rifugio Gilberti we climb along the CAI trail 632 reaching Sella Bila Pec, check and refreshment point along the uneven trails of the backward supply lines, where finds place a small barracks realized at the beginning of the war, and which was intended to support the old Canin refuge (remains of its basement are still visible). Nearby, the ruins of huts and one cave (post of a mountain unit), while behind the peak of BilaPec -on a wide, open space- it is located the basement of the cableway's station, which starting from Val Raccolana served the position. Along the path, we can observe the numerous traces of Megalodon, heart-shaped fossils. The route corresponds to the botanical itinerary of Bila Pec, which offers a view on the flora of extreme, high-altitude environments.

### **B** SELLA PREVALA (Trail CAI 636)

- Features of the trail:*
- Departure: **Rifugio Gilberti**
  - Difficulty: **medium/low**
  - Minimum altitude: **1850 m**
  - Maximum altitude: **2067 m**
  - Timing: **3,00 hours**

*Description:*  
Starting from Rifugio Gilberti we climb along the CAI trail 636 reaching the Slovenian boundary at Sella Prevala, delimited by Monte Golovec and Monte Forato, where the remains of the -hollowed out in the rock- posts of the Royal Italian Army are still visible. We proceed along the track under the Golovec wall, where the ruins of the barracks of the Italian war village in Sella Prevala are still to see. Here we join the war mule track, which was built in 1915 to connect the military units at high altitude with those in the valleys. Hiking down the CAI trail 636 we reach Sella Nevea. This trail follows the military mule track of Poviz -traced in 1915-. Here, at high altitude, we can observe the remains of many military buildings and -along the path- retaining walls and small bridges realized by soldiers by applying the dry masonry technique.

### **C** RIFUGIO GILBERTI - CLIMBING TO ROBON MOUNTAIN

- Features of the trail:*
- Departure: **Rifugio Gilberti**
  - Difficulty: **low, unevenness of Karst**
  - Minimum altitude: **1850 m**
  - Maximum altitude: **1.908 m**
  - Timing: **4 hours (along CAI 637)**  
**3 hours (along CAI 636)**

*Description:*  
Robon mountain (not to be mismatched with Rombon, at the edge of the northern Canin range) was considered a stronghold by the Italian army, with an important and fortified observation point for artillery. In fact, Italians opposing to the Astro-Hungarian army deployed on the Mogenza Piccola built many military buildings: pillboxes, barracks, tunnels, one battlement with embrasures in stone and reinforced concrete to defend the front and the military mule track. From the refuge, we go along the CAI trail 636a and then along the CAI trail 637, which is to follow until reaching the wide Sella Robon, where we can enjoy a wonderful view on the Canin range, the Jôf Fuart, the Madre dei Camosci and the far away Mangart and Jalovec.



# Rifugio Pellarini



**ARRIVAL:** form P2 parking in Valbruna following the CAI trail 616, at first along a forest road and then along a route under the rocky walls of the Rondini that accompanies the visitor to the refuge. Journey time: about 2 hours.

**MAIN ATTRACTIONS:** Nabois Grande (2313 m), Jôf Fuart (2.666 m), Cima di Riofreddo(2507 m), Anello delle Rondini (max 1757 m), Sentiero Chersi (max 1970 m), Sentiero dei Cavalieri (max 1630 m), Alta Via delle Alpi Tarvisiane.

**STORIA:** The refuge was built in 1924 by the Società Alpina delle Giulie, and dedicated to the voluntary Alpine Luigi Pellarini, who had died during the Great War on the Monte Chiesa, Asiago. Enlarged in 1960 reflecting the typical wooden architecture of Valcanale, in the 80s was closed due to inadequacy of rooms and the not sufficient size. A new restoration started in the 90sand in 1997 the present structure was ready to welcome mountaineers and hikers. The mountain hut is located within an evocative fir wood in Carnizza di Camporosso(Val Saisera), and is surrounded by majestic walls and snow tongues in the middle of the magnificent amphitheater enclosed in the highest mountains of the Jôf Fuart range. This is starting point of many alpine ascents of the great northern wall of the Jôf Fuart range and it is an easy access to the Rio Freddo side too, where we can find other classic and modern climbing routes. Nearby the refuge a recently refurbished climbing gym, available for courses or leisure.

**CUISINE:** the refuge offers a continued restaurant service, from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, and proposes dishes in line with the gastronomic tradition of Valcanale, often influenced by the culinary tradition of Friuli, Carinthia and Slovenia. Great attention is paid to the quality: cheeses from the dairy of Ugovizza, local cured meats, herbs grown in the alpine huts nearby, beers from Carinthia and wines from the Friulian Collio.



Open:  
from June to September



Beds:  
45



Bathrooms:  
3 toilets, 2 showers



Services: Wi-Fi, luggage transport via cableway, excursions with an alpine guide, mountaineering and climbing courses for children too.



Altitude: 1499 m  
Mountain range: Jôf Fuart,  
Alla Carnizza di Camporosso  
Tabacco 019 «Alpi Giulie  
Occidentali - Tarvisiano»

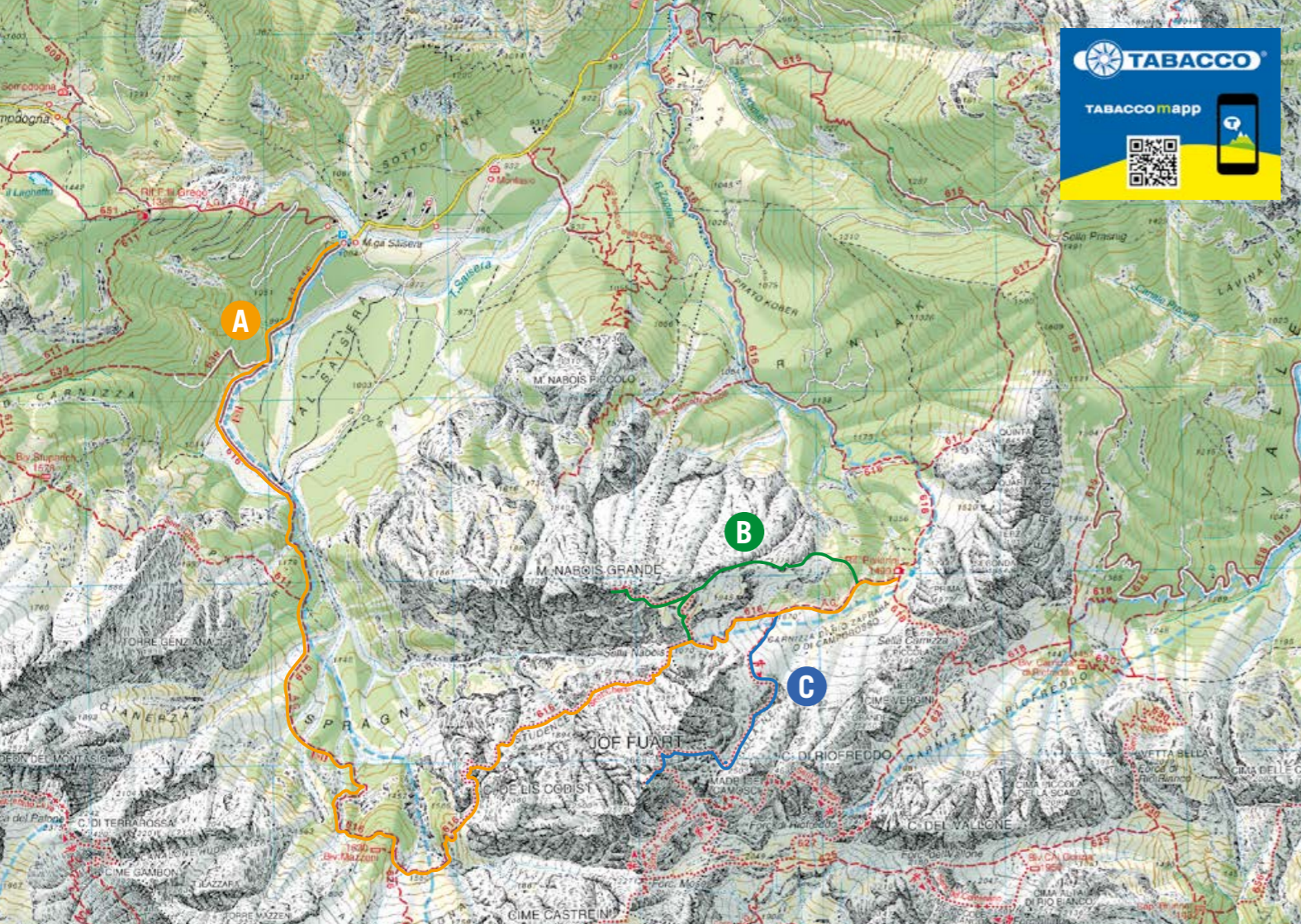


Ownership: Società Alpina  
Giulie Sezione CAI of Trieste

**Municipality of Tarvisio (UD)**  
**località Carnizza di Camporosso**

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## A SENTIERO CHERSI

Features of the trail:

- Departure: **Malga Saisera**
- Difficulty: **medium**
- Minimum altitude: **1004 m**
- Maximum altitude: **1970 m**
- Timing: **7,30 hours**

Description:

The path follows mule tracks, routes and traces drawn during the Great War, on the background a magnificent environment with a breathtaking view over the walls of Jôf Fuart.

Like almost the entire mountains of the range, even Nabois shows off remains of Austrian posts dating back to the First World War: actually, this was the Austian front line, which proceeded to the JofFuart, while posts of the Italian Alpini were on the other side, on Montasio, Jof di Sompdogna and Jof di Miezegnot.

## B THE DIRETTA TEDESCA (EASTERN PEAK) TO GRANDE NABOIS

Features of the trail:

- Departure: **Rifugio Pellarini**
- Difficulty: **medium/high**
- Minimum altitude: **1499 m**
- Maximum altitude: **2313 m**
- Timing: **3,00 hours**

Description:

The alpine trail ascending the eastern peak of the Grande Nabois is a famous itinerary over the border for the beauty and panorama it offers on the Valbruna valley. The extraordinary path was covered by the Austrian troops during the Great War to reach the viewpoint Nabois. Walking along the military path, we encounter some Astro-Hungarian refuges, one of which still has the original wooden structure.

## C THE NORTH-EAST GORGE OF JÔF FUART

Features of the trail:

- Departure: **Rifugio Pellarini**
- Difficulty: **high**
- Minimum altitude: **1499 m**
- Maximum altitude: **2666 m**
- Timing: **5,00 hours**

Description:

This alpine paths is one of the most fascinating ascensions of the Julian Alps, for sure. From the so-called “Cengia degli Dei”(2666 m), we can admire one of the best panoramas on the Julian Alps and the nearby countries: Austria and Slovenia. Also, the equipped trail “Anita Goitan” crosses a majestic landscape. During the First World War the Austrian soldiers built an equipped path within the Gorge in order to get to the top of Wischberg (the German language name for Jôf Fuart), where they had a fixed observation postthe peak was then drilled by means of mines to realize a cave, and -in 1916- the Scotti Hutte (Capanna Scotti).

# Rifugio Guido Corsi



**ARRIVAL:** from Valle Rio del Lago along the forest road towards the Gran-tagar alpine hut, where the Austro-Hungarian first line found place (there are numerous remains of trenches, armored posts and caves), and proceeding along CAI trail 628 and 625, walking under the Parete delle Gocce. Journey time: about 2:30 hours. From Sella Nevea through the CAI trail 625 heading the Cregnedul alpine hut, crossing the Passo degli Scalini. Journey time: about 2:45 hours.

**MAIN ATTRACTIONS:** Jôf Fuat (2.666 m), Cima di Riofreddo (2.507 m), Cima del Vallone (2.368 m), Villaccobelltower (2.247 m), Re di Sassonia trail (max 1.874 m), Anita Goitanequippedtrail (max 2.518 m), Centenariotrail(max 2.237 m), Ceria Merloneequippedtrail (max 2.531m), Alta Via delle Alpi Tarvisiane.

**HISTORY:** In 1925 the CAI of Trieste fostered the realization of the refuge in the same place where had been the Capanna Findeneegg, realized by will of the Austrian mountaineer Hermann Findeneegg and destroyed during the Geat War. It is dedicated to the memory of Guido Corsi, who had died in 1917 on the Monte Grappa.

Since the building is in the right place where the Austrian first line fended off the Italian attacks and during the war in the surroundings a small war village –named “Findeneegg Stellung”- had emerged, here are to notice many traces of the Great War: trenches, bunkers, walkways, cemeteries and cableways. The refuge is the perfect starting point to visit the main attractions of the place: equipped paths, access ways, cliffs, and caving itineraries (recently, it has been inaugurated a new gym just under the Cime Piccole of Rio Bianco). There are easy routes too, more suitable for families, which allow admiring breathtaking views and the varied flora and fauna: it often happens to encounter alpine ibexes, marmots, eagles, hawks, partridges and royal ravens.

**CUISINE:** guests will be welcomed by dishes of the traditional, regional cuisine and some Hungarian specialties brought by the manager’s wife.



Open:  
form June to September



Beds:  
54



Bathrooms:  
4 toilets, 1 shower



Services:  
public telephone, Wi-Fi,  
luggage transport via  
cableway



Altitude: 1874 m  
Mountain range: Jôf Fuat  
Tabacco 019 «Alpi Giulie  
Occidentali - Tarvisiano»



Manager: Martucci Cristiano  
Ownership: Società Alpina  
Giulie Sezione CAI of Trieste

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### A PASSO DEGLI SCALINI (CAI 625)

- Features of the trail:*
- Departure: **Sella Nevea**
  - Difficulty: **low**
  - Minimum altitude: **1162 m**
  - Maximum altitude: **2022 m**
  - Timing: **3,00 hours**

*Description:*  
 The trail has an important historic meaning, as it allows crossing the two –once- opposing lines. From Sella Nevea, nearby the Caserma della Guardia di Finanza, we ascend along a mule track towards the Casera Cregnedul di Sopra (altitude 1515 m), crossing the CAI trail 624 and the Plagnota war village. This is a spectacular example of the building capacity of the Italian soldiers, in fact here is still present a useful water tank with the script of the Battaglione Val Fella. Proceeding to the Passo degli Scalini we can see the ruins of the Italian trenches (and, at the bottom of the wall of the Gocce (cliff), an Austrian machine gun post within a cave.

### B RIFUGIO CORSI-FORCELLA VALLONE

- Features of the trail:*
- Departure: **Rifugio Guido Corsi**
  - Difficulty: **medium** through the scree **high** through the Centenario trail
  - Minimum altitude: **1874 m**
  - Maximum altitude: **2180 m**
  - Timing: **0,45 hour** to the tunnel / **4 hours** to Gorizia bivouac through the Centenario trail

*Description:*  
 This path gives the opportunity to observe a tunnel -about one hundred-meter long-, dug into the rock by the Astro-Hungarian army during the Great War, where the Centenario trail begins: after a way on wet rocks, followed by reinforced steps and a wooden staircase, we get to a space with embrasures. An equipped track follows; therefore, helmet and climbing harness are needed.  
 As variation, we can reach Gorizia bivouac by going down the scree; by taking the CAI trail 625 we get then to the valley of Rio-bianco.

### C CIME CASTREIN

- Features of the trail:*
- Departure: **Riofreddo mountain pass**
  - Difficulty: **high**
  - Minimum altitude: **980 m**
  - Maximum altitude: **2502 m**
  - Timing: **7,00 hours**

*Description:*  
 The wonderful alpine trail gives the chance to review the Austrian posts. Following the Anita Goitan equipped route we will get to the peak, full of memories of the Great War on the Astro-Hungarian side: tunnels, posts and daring linking paths. Along the ancient traces of military tracks we reach Forcella Mosè, walking along pathways and the ruins of the military cableway's station that used to come from the Findenezz Astro-Hungarian post, exactly in the same place where the Rifugio Corsi finds place. In the surroundings of the Forcella there are many remains of the Austrian defensive posts, to be visited with caution.

# Rifugio Fratelli Grego



**ARRIVAL:** from Dogna following the asphalt road for 18 km to get to Sella di Sompdogna, from here the refuge is 10 minutes walking away. From Valbruna following the Val Saisera road to arrive at the clearing of Malga Saisera, from here walking along a forest road and then a mule track (CAI trail mark 611) that leads to the hut. Journey time: about 40 minutes.

**MAIN ATTRACTIONS:** Jôf di Montasio (2.754 m), Jôf di Miezegnot (2.087 m), Jôf di Somdogna (1.889 m), Alta Via delle Alpi Tarvisiane

**HISTORY:** The Rifugio Fratelli Grego finds place in a suggestive clearing surrounded by high conifers, eastern side of the Sella di Somdogna, nearby the lake of the same name, with a view on the north walls of the Jôf di Montasio and the west sides of the Jôf Fuart and Monte Nabois. This is the perfect starting point for ascensions to the Jôf di Miezegnot, the Jôf di Somdogna and for the trip to the Rifugio Pellarini. The half-timbered building built in 1927 is dedicated to the memory of Attilio Grego, soldier of the Great War, who received 4 silver medals and died in 1925 at PassoFassa. In 1966, after his brother's death, Ferruccio, who died on the Musi range, the mountain hut is named after the three Grego brothers: Attilio, Ferruccio and Remigio, who found death in 1943, in a Russian concentration camp. In year 2000, the refuge is finally dedicated to the fourth brother, Paolo Grego, too, who died in 1994.

The mountain hut is located in proximity of the ancient boundary marker between the Kingdom of Italy and the Astro-Hungarian Empire. At the time of the First World War, the area was site of continuous clashes between the two opposing armies. Artillery shots, outposts and infiltration patrols characterized the battles in the area of the Somdogna saddle and the slopes of the Jof di Somdogna and the Jof di Miezegnot.



Open:  
from June to September  
Winter: week-end



Beds:  
38



Bathrooms:  
3 toilets, 2 shower



Services:  
public telephone



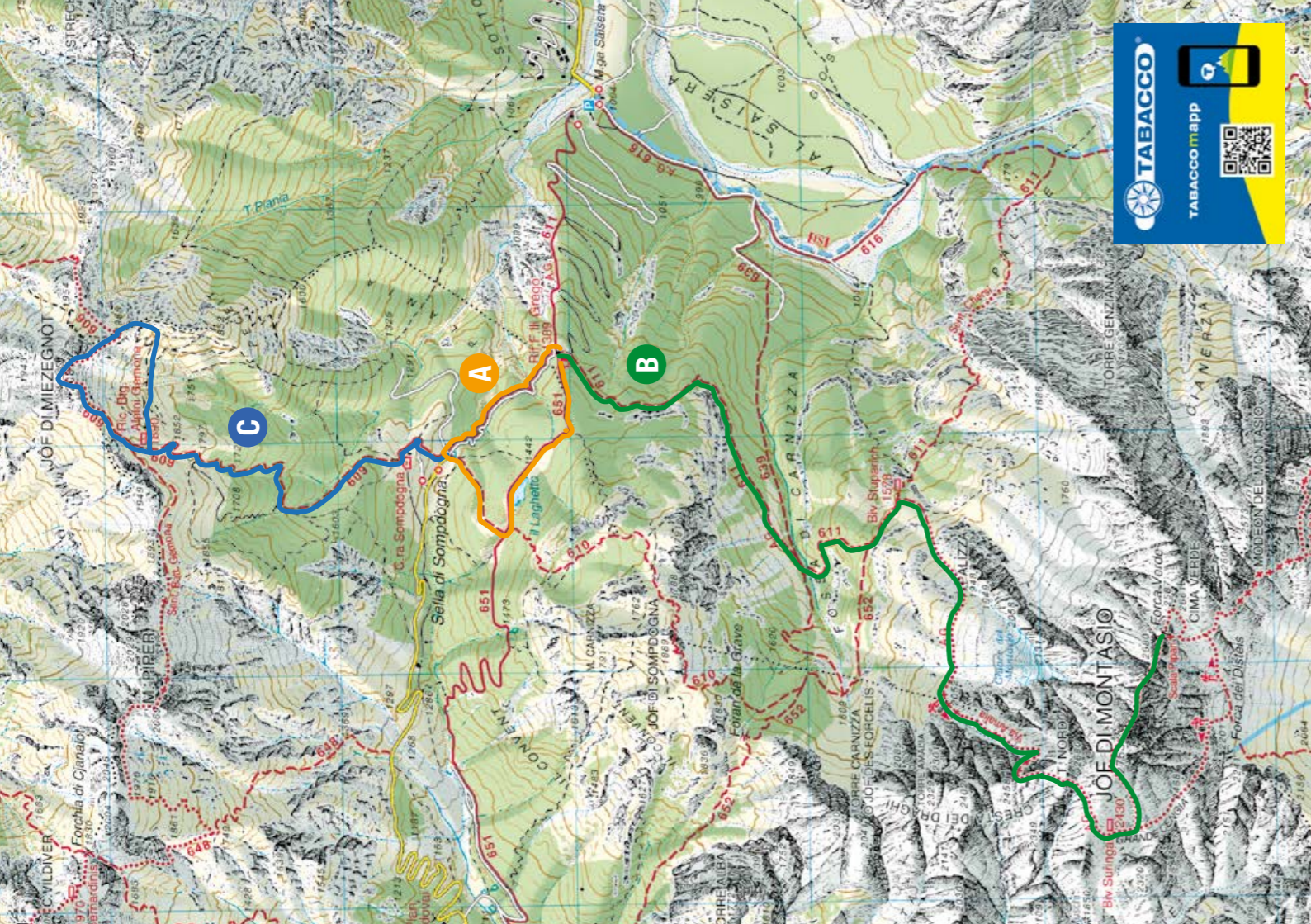
Altitude: 1389 m  
Mountain range:  
Jof di Montasio, Joffuart  
Tabacco 019 «Alpi Giulie  
Occidentali - Tarvisiano»



Manager: Ben Renato  
Ownership: Società Alpina  
Giulie Sezione CAI of Trieste

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## A THE RING OF LAGHETTO SOMDOGNA

- Features of the trail:
- Departure: Rifugio Fratelli Grego
  - Difficulty: low
  - Minimum altitude: 1389 m
  - Maximum altitude: 1397 m
  - Timing: 1,15 hours

*Description:*  
Along the pleasant path crossing beech forests we can admire the clearly visible signs of the 4 lines of defense of the Italian front during the Great War. We can also notice many explosion craters created by the medium- and large-caliber grenades exploded by the Astro-Hungarian artillery. On October 18. And 19. 1915 a particularly bloody battle took place, when the Austro-Hungarian soldiers tried to reconquer the Peceit and Somdogna posts and almost reached the Somdogna saddle. The Austrian troops hardly hit by the Italian artillery, and encircled on one side and on the front by the machine guns and fires of the Italian 97° Company.

## B JÔF DI MONTASIO

- Features of the trail:
- Departure: Rifugio Fratelli Grego
  - Difficulty: medium/high
  - Minimum altitude: 1389 m
  - Maximum altitude: 2754 m
  - Timing: 7,00 hours

*Description:*  
Starting from the top of Montasio it is possible to enjoy a fantastic view. A small group of Alpini was encamped for the whole duration of the war on top of Jôf Montasio. Thanks to the phone connection with the army commands, they could manage from this viewpoint the shots of the artillery batteries and provide information about the movements of the Astro-Hungarian troops. To get to the peak, the Alpini built the Pipan stairway, a route equipped with wire ropes and a metal stairway, about 70 m long. The actual stairway was rebuilt by the CAI of Gorizia in 1963 and named after Agostino Pipan.

## C JÔF DI MIEZEGNOT

- Features of the trail:
- Departure: Rifugio Fratelli Grego
  - Difficulty: high
  - Minimum altitude: 1389 m
  - Maximum altitude: 2087 m
  - Timing: 4,00 hours

*Description:*  
On the top of the Jôf di Miezegnot the view on the Julian and the Eastern Carnic range is extremely vast. The well-marked mule track softly ascends and allows to see the gravestones of the former Italian war cemetery. After a few tens of meters and we reach the ruins of the Italian war village, an extraordinary series of buildings at an altitude of 1890 m, the so-called "Villa Bucintoro". From the top of Jôf di Miezegnot we can admire the various ruins of the buildings, posts and, in particular, the remains of one of the most important viewpoints of the Italian artillery. Also, from the Peceit ridge we can notice further ruins of Italian defensive walls and deep trenches hollowed out in the rock.

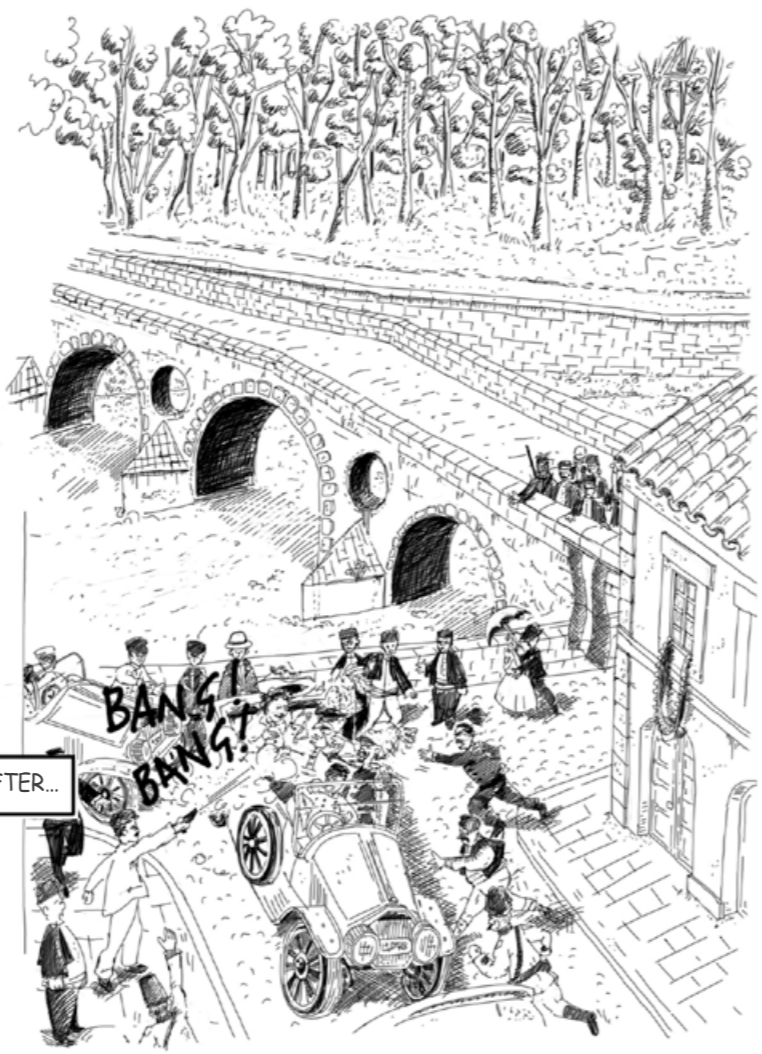
Abstract of the Ring of the Great War graphic novel. Find the full version on [www.tarvisiano.org](http://www.tarvisiano.org). Project developed by Saul Darù with Luisa Flora.

SARAJEVO, JUNE 28. 1914  
GAVRILO PRINCIP, A YOUNG SERBIAN NATIONALIST, MURDERS THE ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND, HEIR TO THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN THRONE, AND HIS WIFE, DURING ONE OF THEIR OFFICIAL VISITS.

THIS EPISODE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR.



SOON AFTER...



JULY 28. 1914 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, SURE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF SERBIA IN THE ATTACK, DECLARES WAR TO THE COUNTRY.  
JULY 30. 1914 RUSSIA MOBILIZES ITS TROOPS IN FAVOR OF SERBIA.



AUGUST 4. 1914: AFTER THE GERMAN ATTACK ON BELGIUM (THAT HAVE DECLARED ITS NEUTRALITY), GREAT BRITAIN ENTERS THE WAR ON THE SIDE OF FRANCE AND RUSSIA (TRIPLE ENTENTE).

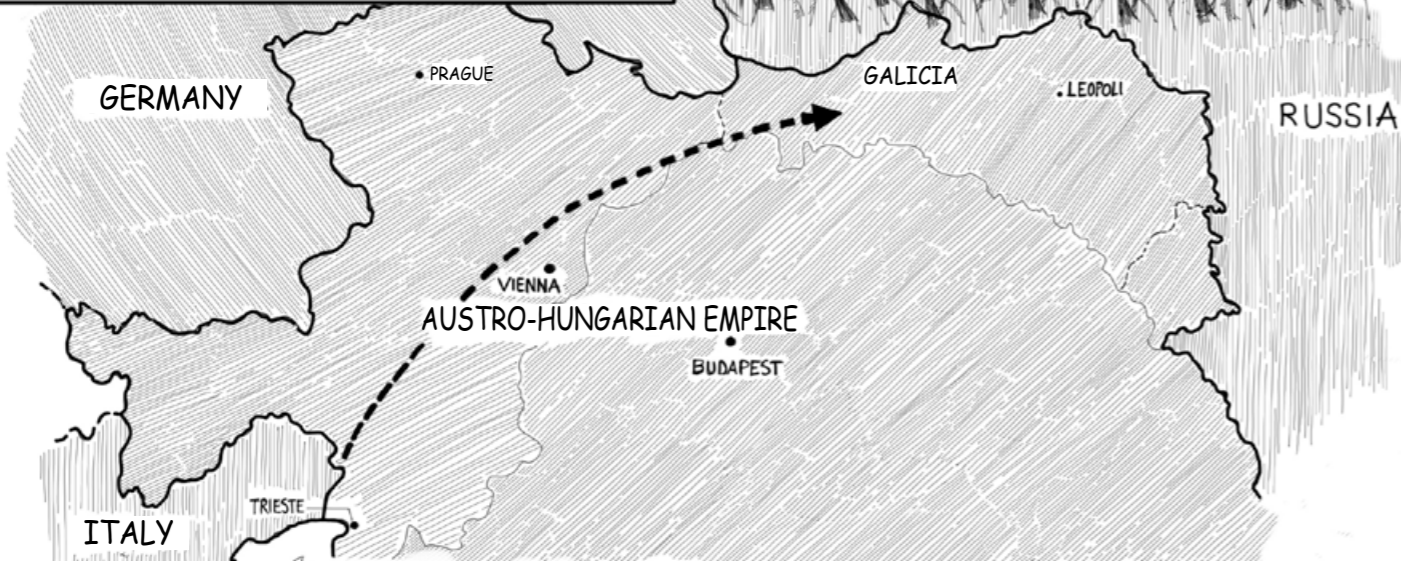


AUGUST 1., GERMANY, BY VIRTUE OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE SIGNED WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, DECLARES WAR TO RUSSIA AND ITS ALLY FRANCE.

MAY 23. 1915 ITALY OFFICIALLY DECLARES WAR TO THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE. A NEW FRONT OPENS UP, STRETCHING FROM STELVIO TO CARSO.

BETWEEN 1914 AND 1918 THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, I.E. BULGARIA, RUMANIA, PORTUGAL, GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES, ENTER THE WAR TOO.

WHEN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ENTERS THE WAR, ALL THE MEN RESIDING IN THE TARVISIO AREA, WHICH AT THAT TIME BELONGED TO THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE, ARE ENLISTED IN THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL ARMY (LITERAL TRANSLATION OF KAISERLICH AND KÖNIGLICH, ABBREVIATED K.U.K). MANY OF THEM ARE SENT TO THE MOST REMOTE FRONTS, IN GALICIA AND TO THE RUSSIAN FRONT.



GERMANY

PRAGUE

GALICIA

LEOPOLI

RUSSIA

VIENNA

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE

BUDAPEST

ITALY

TRIESTE



WHEN ITALY DECLARES WAR ON THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE, THE INHABITANTS OF THE TARVISIO AREA (SO-CALLED STANDSCHÜTZEN), TOGETHER WITH VOLUNTEERS FROM CARINTHIA (KÄRNTNER FREIWILLIGE SCHÜTZEN), ARE COMMITTED TO DEFEND THE EMPIRE'S BORDER. THEY ARE EXEMPT FROM THE ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE BECAUSE OF THEIR AGE (TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG), THEN THEY ARE NOT PROPERLY ARMED AND EQUIPPED. NONETHELESS, THEY SUCCEED IN DEFENDING THEIR FRONT UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE REGULAR TROOPS.

ITALIAN SOLDIERS ARE COMING FROM ALL AROUND THE KINGDOM: THE LEVY IS A NATIONAL SERVICE AFFECTING MAINLY FARMERS. THESE ARE MASSIVELY CALLED-UP IN ORDER TO ALLOW LABORERS TO CONTINUE WORKING IN THE PRODUCTION PLANTS.



WE ARE ALMOST ARRIVED. HAVE A LOOK AROUND GUALTIERI... THIS LANDSCAPE IS A TRIBUTE TO LIFE... THESE GUYS CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN...



GOOD MORNING LADY, ARE MARIO AND CARLO TORRESI LIVING HERE?

YES, OF COURSE. THEY ARE MY SONS, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THEM?



YES, DADDY

MARIO THEY HAVE ARRIVED

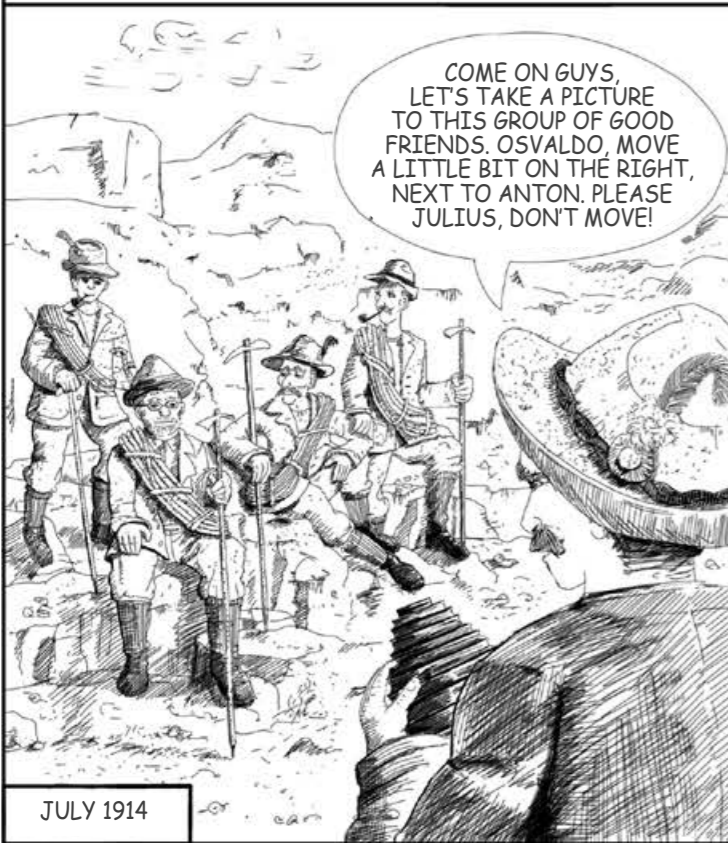


NO!... OTHER TWO SONS OF MINE ARE AT THE FRONT ALREADY PLEASE LET THEM STAY WITH ME, I IMPLORE YOU!



DON'T CRY, WE'LL BE BACK SOON

WAR PROFOUNDLY CHANGES EVERYONE'S LIFE: FRIENDS DEFEND OPPOSITE FRONTS. THIS IS THE CASE OF JULIUS KUGY, WRITER AND PASSIONATE MOUNTAINEER, AND HIS TWO INSEPARABLE ALPINE GUIDES ON THE WESTERN JULIAN ALPS, ANTON OITZINGER FROM VALBRUNA AND OSVALDO PESAMOSCA FROM VAL RACCOLANA.



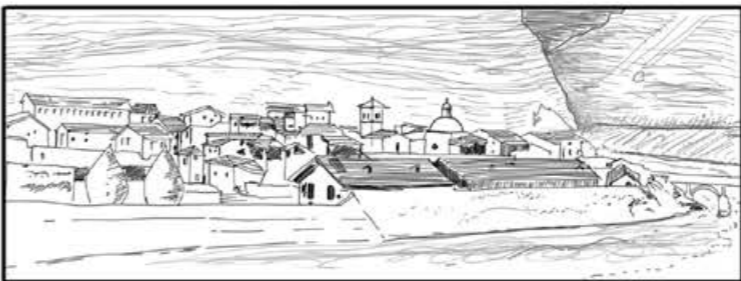
ONE YEAR LATER THE THREE FRIENDS ARE FIGHTING ON OPPOSITE FRONTS: JULIUS KUGY ENLISTS IN THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY AS "ALPINE REFERENT" AND ANTON OITZINGER JOINS HIM, WHILE OSVALDO PESAMOSCA IS SERVING THE ITALIAN ARMY.



"BY THE END OF JUNE 1915, EVEN THOUGH I WAS 57 ALREADY, I VOLUNTEERED AND GOT TO THE FRONT ON THE JULIAN ALPS AS ALPINE REFERENT (THAT IS ALPINE COUNSELOR)... I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I OFFERED MY BLOOD, BELONGINGS, HEALTH AND LIFE TO THE FADING NATIVE LAND, WITHOUT HESITATION. I HELD ON, STRONG AND LOYAL, UNTIL THIS DYING LAND COLLAPSED..."

Julius Kugy

ON THE FRONTS, THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERS THE COMPLETE EVACUATION OF ALL THE TOWNS BETWEEN CAMPOROSSO AND PONTAFEL. THE EVACUEES OF THE EMPIRE ARE PLACED IN REFUGE CAMPS IN AUSTRIA, TYROL, BOHEMIA, STYRIA AND SLOVENIA. PEOPLE TRY TO BRING WITH THEM THE LIVESTOCK AND EVERYTHING THEY CAN CARRY. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE HOSTILITY, IN THE KINGDOM OF ITALY DOGNA AND ITS VALLEY ARE EVACUATED AND THE 60% OF THE CITIZENS IS MOVED TO DIFFERENT TOWNS IN THE CENTER AND SOUTH OF ITALY.



JULY 1914

IN DOGNA THERE ARE TWO HOWITZERS 305/17, WHICH CONTINUOUSLY BOMB THE AUSTRIAN TERRITORY.



IN THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN TERRITORY, THE VILLAGES NEARBY THE BORDER -FOR EXAMPLE TARVISIO- SUFFER THE SAME FATE BY THE ITALIAN ARTILLERY.



THE AUSTRIA-HUNGARIAN REACTION IS NOT SLOW IN COMING.



SEPTEMBER 1915: STRIKES DO NOT SPARE ONE OF THE CEMETERY'S TOWERS NEARBY THE CHURCH OF ST.PETER AND ST.PAUL.



SIR, TODAY WE HAVE TO BRING SUPPLIES TO THE ALPINI IN PIEVE DI TECO, THEY ARE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE GRUBIA PASS

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SUPPLIES TO THE FIRST LINES AT HIGH ALTITUDES, THE ITALIAN ARMY ASKS CIVILIANS TO CARRY PROVISIONS AND AMMUNITIONS ON THEIR SHOULDERS. IN MOST OF THE VILLAGES, YOU CAN MEET OLD MEN, CHILDREN AND WOMEN ONLY, SINCE THE MAJORITY OF MEN ARE FIGHTING ON THE FRONT. BETWEEN 1915 AND 1917, IN 24 MUNICIPALITIES OF UPPER FRIULI - AMONG OTHERS DOGNA, RESIA AND MOGGIO- MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND WOMEN 15 TO 60 YEARS OLD VOLUNTEER. THEY ARE CALLED THE CARNIC CARRIERS.



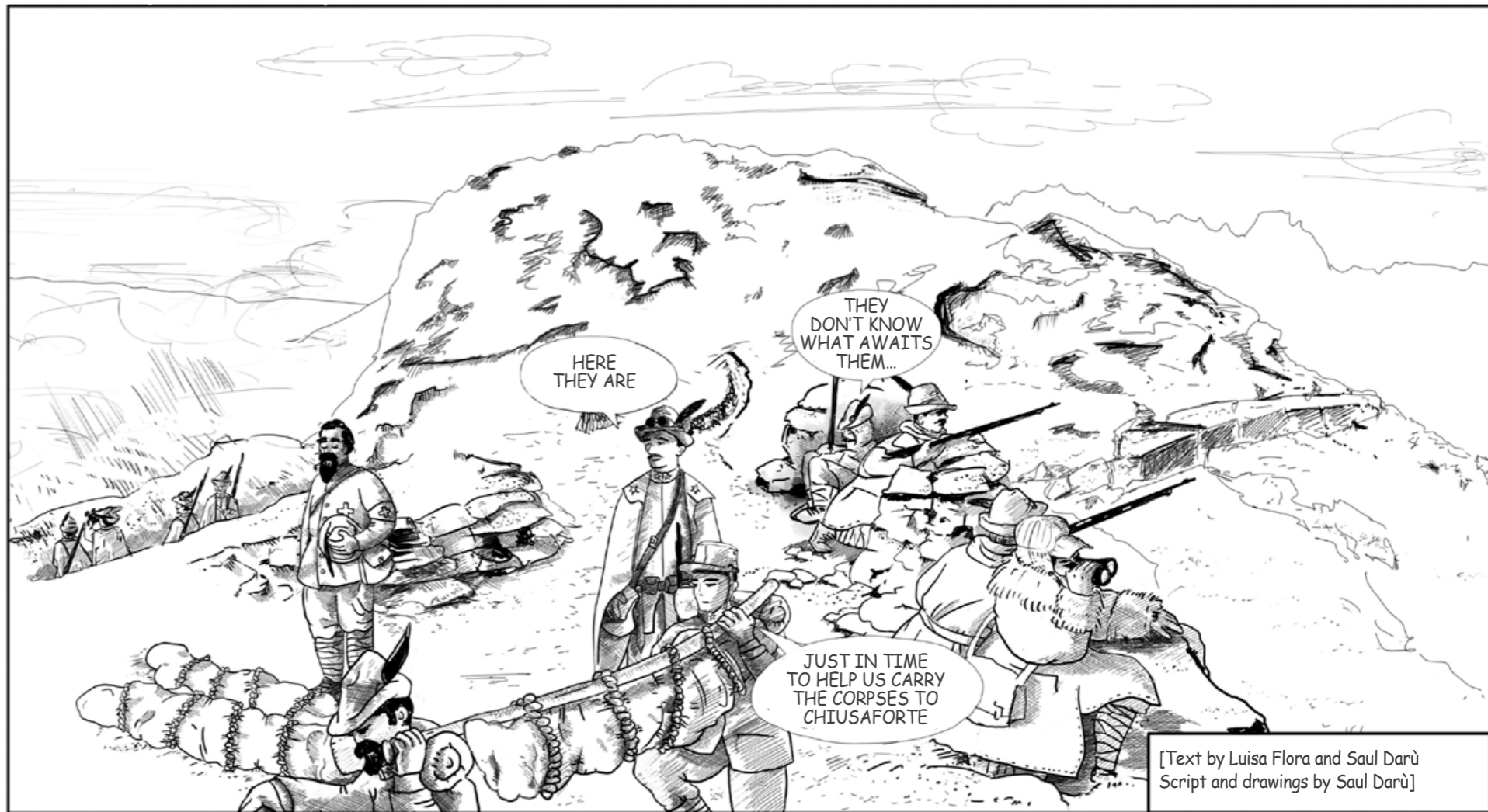
COME ON, THE DAY IS COMING, GET BACK ON THE PATH

GRANDMA, WE'RE ALMOST ARRIVED, ONE MORE EFFORT AND WE'RE DONE

MY BACK IS ACHING

IT'S THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK THAT I GO UP TO BRING SUPPLIES AND AMMUNITIONS TO OURS

DURING WINTERS 1915/16 AND 1916/17, THE EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THE AVALANCHES CHARACTERIZING THE PERIOD ON THE MOUNTAINS KILL MORE THAN THE ENEMY SHOTS. SOLDIERS OF BOTH ARMIES FEAR THE SO-CALLED "WHITE DEATH" THAT IS CAUSING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DEATHS: LANDSLIDES SWAMPING CARRIERS, TROOPS AND SHELTERS, AND BITING COLD (-25°C, OVER 2000 M). MEN CANNOT DO ANYTHING BUT SHIVER EVEN WHEN THEY GO TO BED IN THEIR WINTER CLOTHING INSIDE THE BARRACKS HEATED UP BY SMALL METAL STOVES, WHICH ARE ALWAYS ON. MANY OF THEM THINK THEY ARE BACK TO ANCIENTS TIMES, WHEN MEN LIVED IN NESTS WITHOUT LIGHT.





# The Route of the Cannons

The opposing armies proceeded along the paths at the bottom of the valley for storing goods, caring for the injured, transporting supplies and munitions to the first lines. They identified the most crucial areas from a strategic and logistic point of view, and here realized infirmaries, warehouses, stables.

Today the bike path Alpe Adria Radweg and the thick network of bicycle and pedestrian routes crossing the Valcanale allows visiting these important remains in the Municipalities of Tarvisio, Malborghetto, Pontebba, Chiusaforte and Resia, besides the museums, ossuaries, cemeteries, monuments, strongholds and posts of the Italian and Astro-Hungarian troops.

These sites allow a deep understanding  
of what soldiers and civilians  
experienced during the Great War,  
a war of unprecedented scale at that time.



Among the sites requiring ordinary and special maintenance we point out the Plans trail, the Ridotta del Laghetto redoubt of the small lake and the Museum of the Territory and the Great War in Dogna; Predil Pass Battery; the military cemetery of Resia; the military ossuary and the Military Historical Museum of the Julian Alps, in Cave del Predil.



# Sella Predil Battery



**ACCESS:** vehicle access from the State Road 54 (to the top for people coming from Cave del Predil), just a few kilometers from the Italian/Slovenian border.

**STORY:** at the outbreak of the First World War, Tarvisio and the surrounding area belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Predil barrage included the “Sella Predil Battery” –which was built in 1897-, “Forte Lago Predil” (Predil Lake Fort), “Forte Gola di Aibl” (Aibl Gorge Fort, respectively No. 2 and 3) –some remains can be seen along the shores of the Lake-, and other fortifications. The battery was equipped with both telephone and telegraph, and could transmit optical signals to the Forte Lago di Predil and the artillery outpost of Zottenkopf.

During the First World War, they did not use the battery; nonetheless, the army of the Kingdom of Italy kept on bombing the building since June 1915 until the battle of Caporetto, causing serious damage to it.

## POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST NEARBY:

- In Cave del Predil, you will have the chance to visit the mine of the International Raibl Geomineral Park. Together with the tourist guide, you can discover how difficult the miners’ life was, as well as the importance of the mine itself in the First World War. The troops fighting in the various battles –among them Caporetto- used to cross the gallery linking Cave and Log pod Mangartom (it also belonged to Austria-Hungary at that time).
- The nearby Military History Museum of the Julian Alps (No. 4) illustrates the story of the First World War within the territory, while the cemetery’s chapels in honor of the fallen from Italy, Carinthia and other countries recall that the first line between the two opposing armies crossed this territory.



# Plans Fortified Line



**ACCESS:** vehicle access from the road starting from Dogna to Sella Somdogna, in Stavoli dei Plans, approximately 12 kilometers from Dogna. The road develops through the former military road, which was traced during the First World War.

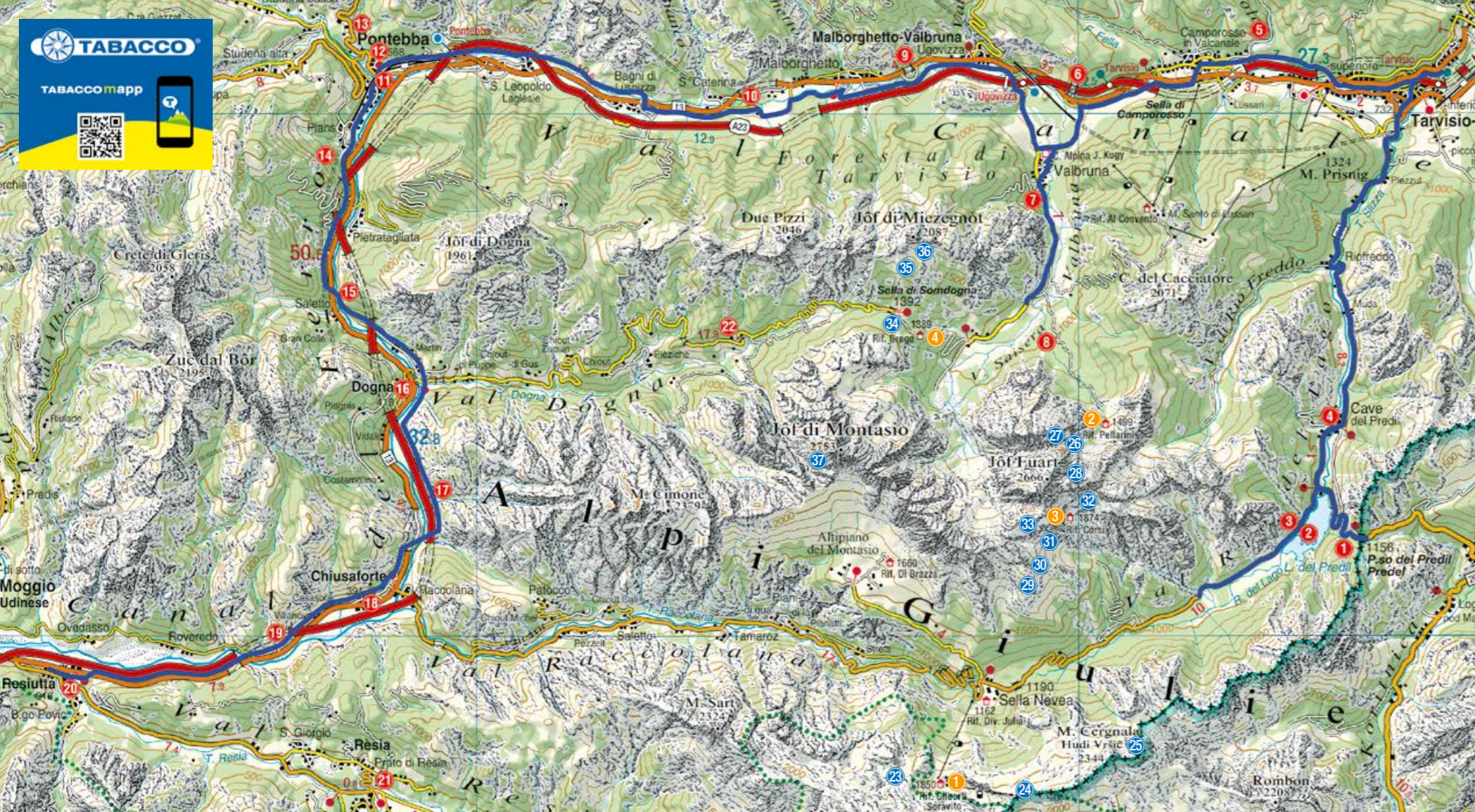
**STORY:** At the time of the conflict, the complex defensive line of the Royal Italian Army blocked the way towards the upper Dogna Valley descending from the present route to the Dogna torrent and then up to the opposite side, where you can still admire the ruins of the armored trenches. It consists of communication routes, trenches, galleries, caves and observation posts. As for location and substantial works carried out, the King of Italy Vittorio Emanuele III came to visit several times.

The visitor can enjoy the whole itinerary thanks to important restoration works. It goes through a maze of trenches, communication trenches, galleries and armored passageways. The site offers ways for educational activities, thanks to its peculiarities and extraordinary accessibility.

## POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST NEARBY:

- the Museum of the Territory and of the Great War in Dogna (No. 16) presents to visitors original finds from the surroundings and gives useful information about the area of Dogna at the beginning of the century, as well as on the front crossing the Julian Alps.
- On the carriage road to Sella Somdogna, in Chiout, you can find the remains of an intermediate cableway station between Cadramazzo (nearby Chiusaforte, where the railway line arrived) and Chiout, crossing Cuel de la Baretta.
- The cableway - inaugurated in 1917 - partially worked for few months only because of some faults. After the battle of Caporetto, in the autumn of the same year, all operations stopped completely.





## THE ROUTE OF THE CANNONS

Sites of historical interest:

- 1 Sella Predil Battery
- 2 Fort of Predil Lake
- 3 Aibl Gorge Fort
- 4 Military Historical Museum of the Julian Alps
- 5 59° Austro-Hungarian Brigade climbing wall
- 6 Memorial dedicated to Charles I, ruler of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- 7 Austrian military cemetery
- 8 Great War Theme Park
- 9 Malborghetto Hensel Fort and monument of the Hensel Lion in memory of the Austrian Captain
- 10 Great War Austro-Hungarian barrier of Cucco
- 11 Historical bridge with boundary stones Pontebba/Pontafel (starting point of the Thematic Park Bombaschgraben)
- 12 S. Antonio cemetery and monument to the Austro-Hungarian fallen soldiers
- 13 Thematic Park Bombaschgraben
- 14 Barrier of Ponte di Cristo
- 15 Entrance to the caves – barrier of Mincigos
- 16 Museum of the territory and of the Great War
- 17 Barrier of Cadramazzo with caves – gunner
- 18 Permanent Great War exhibition at the Caserma Zucchi, an ex-military base
- 19 Col Badin Fort and Museum of the Great War on the mountain battlefield
- 20 Graves of Great War fallen soldiers
- 21 Military cemetery of Resia
- 22 Plans fortified line



## THE ROUTE OF THE CANNONS

Sites of historical interest:

- 23 Remains of Italian barracks
- 24 Remains of Italian positions
- 25 Remains of Italian positions
- 26 Remains of Astro-Hungarian positions
- 27 Remains of minor constructions of the Astro-Hungarian army
- 28 Path leading to the Astro-Hungarian observation post on the Jof Fuart
- 29 Remains of an Italian war village
- 30 Remains of Italian trenches
- 31 Remains of Austro-Hungarian trenches
- 32 Austro-Hungarian position in a tunnel
- 33 Remains of Austro-Hungarian fortifications
- 34 Remains of the Italian army's defensive lines
- 35 Remains of the Italian war village Villa Bucintoro
- 36 Remains of the Italian artillery observation post
- 37 Italian Alpini route reaching the peak of Montasio



## MOUNTAIN HUTS

located along the sites of historical interest:

- 1 Rifugio Celso Gilberti
- 2 Rifugio Pellarini
- 3 Rifugio Guido Corsi
- 4 Rifugio Fratelli Grego

# How to get to Tarvisiano

## ITALIA



Friuli Venezia Giulia

## FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA



Tarvisio and its district have a unique position: they're located in the north-east of Italy on the border with Austria and Slovenia along one of the major European thoroughfare, the Vienna-Venice-Rome railway line. It is therefore very easy to reach Tarvisio by public transportation or by car.

### BY CAR

The highway A 23 Alpe Adria connects the whole Tarvisiano district, with exits in Pontebba (from where you can reach in about 20 minutes Passo Pramollo - Nassfeld), Ugovizza-Valbruna and Tarvisio (last exit in Italy). A23 is a ramification of A4 motorway Turin-Milan-Venice-Triest. Tarvisio can be reached in a few hours from most cities of northern Italy. Driving from Austria and Slovenia, Tarvisio is the first motorway exit in Italy and is comfortably connected with the highways of both countries.

### BY TRAIN

The railway station of Tarvisio Boscoverde is located 3 km from the city centre and is very well connected with several daily services to Udine, Trieste and Venice in Italy, Villach, Klagenfurt, Graz and Vienna in Austria. Many local trains leave every day from Udine to reach Tarvisio in just over 40 minutes. Three daily services connect directly Venice to Tarvisio, allowing skiers to reach the ski resort from every part of Italy. A cross-country railway service (train Mi.co.ra.) connects twice a day Udine with Villach, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich.

### BY PLANE

Tarvisio is situated in the centre of new Europe and it's well served by several international airports. The airports of Trieste, Klagenfurt and Ljubljana can be reached in less than an hour by car or by train, while the airports of Venice and Munich connect Tarvisio with major European cities.

[www.tarvisiano.org](http://www.tarvisiano.org)



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