

CIVIDALE DEL FRIULI

Cividale del Friuli is a small town located in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, a north-eastern region of Italy. It was founded by Julius Caesar between 50 and 56 a.C. under the name “Forum Iulii”. It later became an important Lombard town. Cividale is located at the foot of the hill territory of eastern Friuli and it is crossed by the Natisone river. The city is about 17 km far from Udine. In Cividale people speak “Friulano”, that is an officially acknowledged language. There is also a Slovenian speaking minority.



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Monuments and attractions

Among the historical and artistic testimonies of the city, stand out:

- the Devil's Bridge (ponte del diavolo), which leads in the city. It was built during the 15th century, and is very famous for its connected legend. The story tells that the inhabitants of Cividale weren't able to build a bridge on the Natisone river because it was dangerous. Therefore they asked the devil for help. He promised to fix their problem in exchange for the soul of the first person who would go across the bridge. The citizens accepted his condition and the devil built the bridge. He put an enormous rock in the centre of the river, right between the arches. The inhabitants of Cividale tricked the devil by making a dog cross the new bridge. At last the devil had to settle for the animal's soul.
- the Dome of Santa Maria Assunta stands in the centre of the city. In front of the church there is a bronze statue of Julius Caesar. It has been standing there since 1935.



- The Christian museum, which can be accessed from Cividale's cathedral, holds Callisto's

Baptistery (VIII Century) and the Rachtis' altar (about 730-740), both masterpieces of Lombard's sculpture.

The Tempietto Longobardo gained an important role, because it's the most important testimony of the Lombard era. -The National Archaeological Museum and the Palace of the Town Hall are also noteworthy; right inside the second one remains of a Roman Domus from I-II century d.C. have been found.

Events, food and drinks

The “Palio di San Donato” is the most important event in Cividale. The historical commemoration takes place in the city centre. It has medieval origins, and celebrates the city's patron Saint Donato on the 21st of August. The commemoration usually lasts one week; there are food stalls, sport competitions and medieval parades. Cividale is famous mainly for its gubana, a cake made of a sweet dough with a filling of walnuts, raisins, pine nuts, sugar and grated lemon rind. The strucchi are similar to gubana. They are made of a sweet pasta with raisins, walnuts, pine nuts and hazelnuts. Some typical wines of the local area are Ribolla Gialla, Verduzzo and Schioppettino.

