

Friuli Venezia Giulia: Highlights and New Projects 2026

Trieste – The Italian region Friuli Venezia Giulia confirms its appeal as a destination for travel lovers seeking cultural, food & wine and outdoor experiences, while important new developments and projects enhance the destination in 2026.

Culture: Pordenone Italian Capital of Culture 2027, Digital Art and Major Exhibitions

Pordenone will be **Italian Capital of Culture 2027** with the winning project “Pordenone 2027. City that surprises”, aimed at showing how, behind its industrious industrial identity, the city reveals a vibrant cultural life and strong capacity for innovation. The project is based on the idea of making culture a driver of sustainable development through the transformation of unused or underused spaces into new cultural initiatives, such as museums, ecomuseums and venues dedicated to art and musical languages.

In 2026, the legacy of **GO!2025** – that celebrated the two cities of Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and Gorizia as the first cross-border “European Capital of Culture” in 2025– continues with new artistic installations such as the **DAG – Digital Art Gallery** by Refik Anadol in the Bombi Tunnel at the very heart of **Gorizia**, now the largest digital art installation in Europe.

In **Grado**, two new museums open: the *Civic Museum of the Treasure* and the *National Museum of Underwater Archaeology of the Upper Adriatic*, dedicated to ancient navigation and trade, featuring the Roman ship *Iulia Felix* discovered in the Grado’s lagoon.

Moreover, major exhibitions all over the region will delight art’s lovers: in Udine at Casa Cavazzini “**Impressionism and Modernity**” (until 30 August 2026); in Trieste “**Exposure – When the world is watching, from Harry Styles to Lady Gaga**” at ITS Arcademy (26 March 2026 – 3 January 2027); in Gorizia the photographic exhibition “Franco Basaglia. Where the eyes could not reach” (until 3 May 2026); at Villa Manin “Borders from Gauguin to Hopper” (until 12 April 2026). From 26 March to 12 October 2026, Miramare Castle will host an exhibition dedicated to Archduke Maximilian of Habsburg’s collection of Egyptian antiquities.

Wellbeing along the Adriatic between iconic architecture and historic thermal baths

In **Lignano Sabbiadoro**, the iconic **Terrazza a Mare** underwent a profound renovation and will be reopened by summer 2026 completely restyled, with new spaces, an infinity pool overlooking the Adriatic and a beach club/restaurant. The project has also been highlighted by the Venice Architecture Biennale as an example of innovation.

In **Grado**, with the reopening of the Marine Baths, the redevelopment of the historic thermal complex is completed. The new panoramic spa offers pools, relaxation areas, fitness facilities, a cryosauna (unique in the region) and sea-view services, strengthening Grado’s positioning as a year-round sea and wellness destination.

Outdoor & Wellbeing: reconnecting with nature from the mountains to the sea

From the Friulian Dolomites to the millenary forest of Tarvisio, from the vineyards of the Natisone Valleys to the pinewood of Lignano and the park of Miramare Castle, the region invites visitors to regenerate in nature.

Forest yoga, forest bathing, gong baths, cave experiences, family activities and mindfulness paths foster reconnection with the environment and oneself, in a widespread wellbeing experience from the mountains to the sea.

Food & Wine: authentic experiences and new itineraries along the “Wine and Taste Route”

In 2026, FVG confirms its role as a leading destination for food and wine tourism, with top-quality brands “made in Friuli Venezia Giulia” like the DOC Collio and Colli Orientali Wine Production, the San Daniele ham DOP and the

Montasio cheese DOP . Picnics among the vineyards, educational grape harvest experiences and the event “In rifugio c'è più gusto” will attract food&wine lovers.

New experiences of the Wine and Taste Route will include a mapping of visitable coffee roasteries, new food & wine itineraries in the Pordenone area, and **bike & food** proposals combining cycling tourism with local flavours.

Giro d'Italia – Gemona del Friuli / Piancavallo stage – 30 May 2026

On the 50th anniversary of the 1976 earthquake, the Giro d'Italia returns to Friuli Venezia Giulia with a symbolic and spectacular stage. The Gemona–Piancavallo route, with the final climb tackled twice (15 km, gradients up to 14%), will be decisive for the pink jersey and rich in historical and sporting significance.

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