

Udine, a town to discover

Bars, restaurants, culture and shopping



UDINE, PIAZZA DELLA LIBERTÀ

In this brief guide, we recommend a stroll through the centre of Udine, capital of Friuli, about sixty kilometres from Lignano. With its 100,000 inhabitants, Udine is a welcoming, unpretentious, but satisfying city with many stories to tell

Of Longobard origins, residence of the Patriarchs of Aquileia, governed first by Venice and then by Austria until its annexation to the Kingdom of Italy in 1866, Udine (Udene in origin) preserves a small town spirit and is perfect for a one-day trip.

How to get there

From Lignano take the motorway for Trieste, or even better the normal road for smoother flowing traffic. With the car navigator, you will get there in about fifty minutes driving within the posted speed limits.

Parking facilities

Close to the city centre there are the Magrini car park in via Marco Volpe and the brand new car park of Piazza Primo Maggio, just a few steps from the heart of the old town.

First stop: the Bar

Even if the trip was short, a coffee and a quick tidying up are necessary. The famous venue is the Contarena American bar, wine shop and restaurant in Piazza Libertà, right inside the stately municipal office Palace, designed in the 1920s by the famous architect Raimondo D'Aronco. For a good Friulian wine and a canapé the Osteria al Cappello, in via Paolo Sarpi 5, is the perfect location.

The Restaurants

Udine is well known for good local traditional food. Just five minutes' walk from the centre, in via Piave, there is L'Aquila Nera (the Black Eagle), a refined and friendly restaurant with excellent hospitality. You can start with a tasting of anchovy fillets from the Cantabrian Sea, and continue with a tuna steak, fennel, apple and curry eggnog or, as an alternative, meagre fish with San Daniele broth, beets and peas. If you prefer meat, a Red spotted cattle steak is always a sure bet. For a nice finish, a cocoa and peaches soufflé with ginger ice cream. The history of Friulian cuisine can be traced in via Tavagnacco 9, in the immediate outskirts of Udine at the home of the Zamarian family. 'La Vedova' (The Widow) is an ancient nineteenth century tavern, originally born with the sign 'Al Kaiser', that has preserved both the atmosphere and cuisine of its Austrian past. Among its specialties are home-made soppressa (aged salami) seasoned in the 'camarin', Carnic 'cjalcons' (dumplings), barley risotto with sausage and cabbage and the unrivalled devilled chicken. In the warm season, dinner can be enjoyed under the wisteria far from the city noise.

Culture

Udine's contemporary culture has a lot to offer and can compete with much larger cities, as expressed by the many cultural events held during the year, as for example the Far East Film Festival in April, the "vicino/lontano" Festival in May and the many museums, such as Casa Cavazzini, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, via Cavour 14 (phone +39 432.1273772, www.civicumuseiudine.it) which has an exhibition of Works on Paper by James Rosenquist. Rosenquist along with Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Jim Dine, was one of the founders of Pop Art in the '60s. Casa Cavazzini dedicates a retrospective to the artist a year after his death. Paradoxa, art from mid-Korea, from 14 July to 14 October. The three-year Paradoxa project concludes with an exhibition dedicated to contemporary art in South Korea. The dominant theme of this edition of Paradoxa deals with the traumatic separation of the two Koreas seen through three internationally renowned Seoul artists: Yee Sookyung, Park Chan-Kyong and Ham Kyungah. At the Ethnographic Museum of Friuli, in via Grazzano (+39 432.1272920) on show until 17 June 'Vasa et aromata, apothecary pottery jars', as part of the new exhibition dedicated to fire crafts which closes on 31 December 2018.

Shopping

And what trip would be complete without a bit of shopping? Sometimes even not strictly essential things are rewarding and pleasing. If fashion is an integral part of your life, our unbiased advice is to visit one of the shops in the historic centre such as Menegotti, the clothing store for men and women opened by the former Udinese and Italian national football player Enzo Menegotti and his wife in 1963. Over the year, the store has been handed over to their son Stefano and daughter Sandra who maintained its identity as a reference point for lovers of elegant and fashionable clothes. Today some of the most famous brands that can be found in the store are Church's, Barba Napoli, PT01, Jacob Cohen and Tagliatore. Menegotti store, open from Tuesday to Saturday, is in via Rialto (phone +39 432 295405).

Do you love exclusive leather, or writing pens?

Established since 1988 in via Gemona 2, at the end of via Mercato Vecchio, Charta srl has been managed with great passion and expertise by Maurizio Bertolini. It is a gift shop specializing in leather goods, pens, accessories for men and women and retailer of Pineider 1774 pens, Montblanc, Piquadro, A.G. Spalding & Bros., Montegrappa, Aurora, Pelikan, Lamy, Faber-Castell, Pininfarina, Porsche Design, Forever, Mignon, Secrid, etc. Charta srl offers a repair service and restoration for vintage and modern pens, estimates and evaluations, as well as supply of fine writing paper and business cards with embossed relief design by Pineider of Florence, invitations,

compliment cards, letterhead paper, and much more. For an elegant and refined gift, Maurizio Bertolini is more than pleased to advise you in choosing the best item for each event, as part of the courtesy service provided for over 30 years