











Commercial, industrial and agricultural hub as well as the valley's capital, Cles offers numerous attractions deserving of a visit. In the heart of its historical centre, at the beginning of via Roma, the ancient Palazzo Assessorile can be found. It has now been fully restored and is home to temporary exhibitions and expositions; one of the most prestigious halls being that of Justice, where the valley's legal proceedings took place from 1679.

An easy, pleasurable and short walk from the centre of Cles leads to the so-called "Doss de Pez", a splendid panoramic terrace overlooking Lake Santa Giustina and the charming Castel Cles. In the very district of Pez a visit to the **small church of San Vigilio** is recommended. It is the oldest in the village and records

of its existence date back to 911 A.D. The imposing **Santa Giustina dam** that created the lake of the same name can be found not far from Cles, towards Dermulo. The dam, completed in 1951, is 152 metres high and can hold 172 million cubic metres of water. It can be admired from the bridge over the Noce torrent that overlooks the striking abyss

## PREDAIA'S PLATEAU

es between the peaks of Monte Roen and the panoramic Corno di Tres. This is where the village of Coredo, magnificent balcony overlooking Val di Non, is situated surrounded by conifer woods that still safeauard memories of its eventful past. From the centre of the village the charming "Viale dei Sogni" winds halfway up the mountain through a shady part of the wood that leads to

the two lakes of Coredo and Tavon.

From Coredo four interesting mountain

bike rings start, different in length and

The vast **Predaia plateau** gently stretch-

difficulty, which lead to some of the most beautiful destinations in Predaia. Above Coredo the small villages of Smarano and Sfruz can be found. The latter was famous throughout Europe until the nineteenth century for its pre-

cious earthenware stoves "Stufe ad

Olle" and still today holds the secrets to

this traditional craft. From Sfruz it is possible to reach "Sette Larici" (1162 m.), the ideal place for trips into the country and walks in the woods. Carrying on a bit further the spectacle stretches over Predaia's vast meadows (1340 m.) where it is possible to do various outdoor sports in winter: skiing, skating and snow shoeing excursions.

The ancient village of **Fondo** is the main centre of upper Val di Non's green plateau. Along the village's narrow streets, numerous votive frescoes dedicated to S. Giacomo of Compostela can be admired. On the village's main square stands an astronomic hydrochronometer, entirely handmade, which measures time, lunar phases, months and the zodiac. A few simple and picturesque walks start from the village such as the the striking "Ravine walk" that leads to the enchanting **Emerald lake**. Moving upward, the village of Ronzone hosts the wonderful and panoramic "Rose Garden": a little tour through all the roses' species and varieties of the world, for a total of 12.000 rose-bushes. Upper Val di Non's last defence and a passageway to South Tyrol is Passo della Mendola, famous holiday resort for the Hapsburg court until the nineteenth century. Now it is a balcony over the Adige valley and the UNESCO heritage Dolomites. Passo della Mendola is the starting point for glorious excursions on Monte Penegal (1737 m) or to the top of Monte Roen (2116 m). In winter this area is ideal for Nordic skiing, ski mountaineering and

Val di Non is the area with the highest number of castles in Trentino. At times they come in the form of spectacular ruins perched on rocks, such as the romantic Castello d'Altaguardia, the highest of Trentino's castles at 1280 metres. In other cases they maintain their elegant and imposing features, as is the case of **Castel Thun**, emblem of the ancient splendour of one of the most influential families from Trentino: the Thuns. Subject to important renovation work, from spring 2010 Castel Thun is open again to the public and forms one of the four homes of the **Buonconsiglio** castle's museum. As well as keeping the original furniture, a large gallery and precious collections, exhibitions and temporary exhibits of great historical and artistic value are regularly held in its halls. The castle is situated on a hill near the village of Ton. Other fairytale castles, even if private, enrich Val di Non's landscape: Castel Valer, sunk between apple orchards, Castel Cles, reflected in the waters of Lake Santa Giustina, but also Castel Malgolo, Castel Bragher and Castel Nanno. Other manors will be or have been recently opened to the public: including Castel Belasi in Campodenno, home to important restoration work, and Castel Vasio near Fondo that now hosts a pleasant farm inn sur-

# OF SAINT ROMEDIO

The spectacular and silent Sanctuary of S. Romedio represents one of the characteristic symbols of Val di Non. It is found on a rocky spur 70 metres high, where according to legend the noble Romedio lived as a hermit in the company of a bear. It is a complex of five chapels and protected churches. The Sanctuary has been a pilgrim destination for centuries and for some years it has also been possible to reach by an enchanting path carved out of the rock, made out of the remains of a nineteenth century irrigation system. The path begins above the village of Sanzeno, opposite the Rhaetian Museum, Val di Non's ancient history centre, where the most important archaeological finds from the area dating from the ice age to late antiquity have been preserved. The walk to the hermitage is around 2.5 km long and ends near the sanctuary, easily reached along the paved road. In alternative to the walk, in the summer months it is also possible to take advantage of the shuttle bus. Near San Romedio in the centre of the village of Sanzeno, a visit to the Basilica dei Santi Martiri Anauniensi, symbol and witness to the introduction of Christianity in Val di Non, is recom-

The Christian faith has deep roots in Val di Non: this is apparent in the tens of small worship places that still preserve sincere and authentic spirituality. Among the main jewels worth visiting is the church of Santi Bartolomeo and Tommaso of Romeno, its existence already recorded in 1187 but could be even older and the parish church dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta in Vigo di Ton dated 1242, home to an important cycle of frescoes by Gian Antonio and Francesco Guardi. Many small churches in the valley still hold traces of work by the dynasty of painters from Bergamo, Baschenis: among others the church of Segonzone dedicated to Saints Filippo and Giacomo and the church of San Udalrico in Corte Inferiore di Rumo. The many hidden hermitages are another matter and are certainly worth finding. The **hermitage of San Biagio** is situated on a mighty rocky spur overlooking the Novella torrent near the village of Romallo, the one at Santa Giustina near the dam of the same name close to the village of Dermulo, the delightful church of San Pancrazio dominates the orchards above Campodenno, whilst the hermitage of San Gallo is hidden in Cagnò's countryside. An interesting and new route called "Cammino lacopeo d'Anaunia" offers the opportunity to get to know this vast heritage through a pilgrimage in stages that links the most important sites of the Christian faith in Val di Non.

## **INFO**

below.

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# **INFO**

snow shoeing trips.

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rounded by nature.

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# **INFO**

mended.

Santuario di San Romedio Open all year. Admission free tel. +39 0463 536198

Castello del Buonconsiglio's Museum Museo Retico - Sanzeno tel. +39 0463 434125

## **INFO**

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MADDALENE MOUNTAIN DAIRIES







# **TOVEL VALLEY**

Val di Tovel is a splendid valley set in the heart of the Adamello Brenta Nat**ural Park**. It stretches over around 17 Km within the Brenta Dolomite mountain group, elected **UNESCO** world heritage site. At the centre of the valley the enchanting Lake Tovel can be found, which owes its fame to the natural reddening of its waters that occurred regularly every summer until the sixties. Today the lake offers scenes of enchanting beauty in all seasons that can be appreciated on the wonderful walk around

the lake. To discover the various natural aspects of this area, a trip to the "Lago Rosso" visitor centre is recommended. Val di Tovel is also home to the **brown bear** that was brought back into the wild thanks to the "Life Ursus" project, promoted by the Adamello Brenta Natural park. The area is also ideal for taxing climbs to the **Brenta Dolomites** (Passo Grostè 2442 m., cima Flavona 2912 m., cima Falkner 2990 m.), and easy excursions halfway up (malga Pozzol 1632 m., malga Flavona 1820 m. and malga Tuena 1740 m.).

The valley and Lake Tovel can be reached from the village of **Tuenno** (excluding during the winter period). In summer a shuttle bus is available.

# TREKKING AROUND THE

The Maddalene mountain group closes Val di Non to the north. It is a splendid chain bursting with meadows and mountain dairies, ideal destination for trekking in summer and snow shoe excursions in winter. One of Maddalene's most appealing paths is the circuit through the mountain dairies that is taken from the car park adjacent to the tunnel that connects Proves and Val d'Ultimo. At trail marker no. 26 proceed into the woods until the traditional Malga di Lauregno is reached. From here (trail mark 114) the walk continues through the wood and out the other side to a lovely capital in the pleasant green meadows above Malga di Brez (1815 m.). Time permitting a detour is recommended to the top of Monte Popi (path no. 5b), just a short distance away, where a 360° view over Trentino's most spectacular mountains can be enjoyed. The circuit through the mountain dairies continues towards Malga Cas**trin** (1813 m.) first passing trail marker 3 then 157 and finally 133B. At the mountain dairy it is possible to taste the best traditional mountain pasture products. Malga Castrin is also the ideal starting point for a trip up the nearby Monte Luco (2433m) one of most spectacular peaks of the chain. The return path along trail no. 133 allows you to come across a further two of the area's finest mountain dairies: Malga Revò (1734 m.) and

# WALKING AT "PRADIEI"

"Pradiei" are a magnificent set of green meadows between Romeno and Fondo that offer wonderful views over the whole Val di Non and the Maddalene mountain chain. They are the perfect location for walks with the whole family and for people of all ages.

The path stretches over 8 Km and today is also part of the walk- and bikeroute of the Upper Val di Non, a beautiful 32 km ring, ideal for the entire family. From the village of Fondo, along via Mazzini towards Vasio, you take the little road that can be found on the left. From here the magnificent walk that skirts the area's most charming villages commences begins. After a few minutes' walk a short break can be taken at the romantic chapel of Madonna Brusada, a small votive capital that stands out strikingly against the green grass. The walk continues through the countryside that surrounds the splendid villages of Sarnonico and Cavareno until you arrive at the centre of Romeno. "Dolomiti Golf Club" in Sarnonico is situated close to the path and is one of the most esteemed golf courses in the entire Al-

pine arc. The "Pradiei" path is famous because each winter on the days around the 6th January, the "Ciaspolada" is held there, the biggest snow shoeing walk in

# **VERTICAL ROCK THRILLS**

Thanks to its extraordinary morphological form Val di Non is also known as Trentino's land of canyons. The whole valley hides, under the placid rural landscape, a soul of narrow gorges and waterfalls of crystal clear water. Today this exclusive naturalistic landscape can be explored in complete safety thanks to some spectacular routes through the rocks. Among the most interesting and challenging routes "Sentiero del Mondino" (path n. 522) should be remembered. From Dovena, hamlet of Castelfondo, it descends the valley formed by the Novella torrent through imposing rocky faces and leads back up to the village of Fondo for a total trip of

2 hours. A less challenging but just as spectacular walk is the one that starts from Tret, hamlet of Fondo, and leads through the woods to the magnificent waterfall **of Tret**, over 70 m high, in a stunning rocky amphitheatre.

A canyon in the southern part of Val di Non is also worth a visit. It leads to the hermitage of Santa Giustina, which can be found near the church with the same name in the village of Dermulo. The route follows the ancient points of transit between the two shores of the Noce torrent before the construction of the modern Dam of S. Giustina.

# RIO SASS CANYON IN FONDO

One of the most spectacular and wellknown canyon excursions in val di Non is beyond a doubt the Canyon Rio Sass in Fondo. A visit to this gorge is simple and suits all levels; it can be carried out in groups and accompanied by a guide. The starting point is the lowest part of Fondo's historical centre where some evidence of the past can be found including a traditional wash-house and an ancient watermill. In the company of a guide you enter the gorge proceeding along a metal walkway suspended halfway-up. The first part of the journey is particular due to the way it creeps around the foundations of the village's ancient buildings built on a sheer drop over the deep gorge formed over millennia by the waters of Rio Sass. A little further on, the route takes a more primordial and naturalistic turn, with contrasts of light and shadows defined on inaccessible rocks covered in shades of emerald and vermillion moss and lichen. The whole path is a true adventure in the heart of rocks, distinguished by the rushing water that flows vehemently towards the bottom, and the narrow passageways where sunlight struggles to penetrate the vertical walls. Only towards the end does the landscape open up for your gaze to rest upon the spectacular countryside that surrounds Fondo and

# **NOVELLA FLUVIAL PARK**

Among the spectacular gorges that cover the whole of Val di Non one of the largest is formed by the Novella torrent that furrows the entire third bank before gushing into the waters of Lake Santa Giustina. Accompanied by guides from the "Novella River Park" association it is possible to visit the whole course, which stretches over 3.5 km in its entirety between the municipalities of Dambel, Cloz and Romallo.

The first part is found in an open and sunny landscape that conjures up images of America's wild west: strips of red, grey, yellow and white rocks. The landscape then changes drastically: the widespread presence of parent rock leads to the need for metal walkways in a fascinating underground world, hundreds of metres deep. Halfway up you pass through the abyss to find masterpieces created by water: springs, waterfalls and rocky vaults, all accompanied by the rushing water that flows hastily towards the bottom. It finishes at the foot of the ancient hermitage of San Biagio, which was also built on a rocky spur, above the village of Romallo. The Novella River Park was awarded a Green Flag by Legambiente, an environmental organisation, for the protection and development of environmental

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Malga Cloz (1730 m.).

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# **INFO AND BOOKINGS**

the small hamlet of Vasio.

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**INFO** 



