



GORIZIA

Gorizia (Slovenian: Gorica, German: Görz, Friulian: Gurize) is a small town at the foot of the Alps, in northeastern Italy, on the border with Slovenia.

It is the capital of the Province of Gorizia, and is a local center of tourism, industry, and commerce.

In Slovenian, Gorica means "little hill." The city is located at the confluence of the valleys of Isonzo and Vipava rivers. It lies in a plain overlooked by the Collio hills, which are renowned for the production of outstanding wines. Being sheltered from the north by a mountain ridge, Gorizia is not touched by the cold winds coming from there. And although the bora can blow from the east, the city still retains a mild climate.

MAIN SIGHTS



The Castle, built within the Middle Ages walls, was once the seat of the administrative and judiciary power of the county. It is divided into the Corte dei Lanzi (with foundations of a high tower demolished in the 16th century), the Palazzetto dei Conti (13th century) and the Palazzetto Veneto. The Lanzi were the armed guards, the term being an Italian form of Landsknecht. The palatine chapel, entitled to Saint Bartholomew houses canvases of the Venetian school of painting and traces of Renaissance frescoes. There is also a Museum of the Goritian

Middle Ages.

- The Cathedral (originally erected in the 14th century), like many of the city's buildings, was almost entirely destroyed during World War I. It has been rebuilt following the forms of the 1682 edifice, a Baroque church with splendid stucco decoration. A Gothic chapel of San Acatius is annexed to the nave.
- The most important church of Gorizia is that of St. Ignatius, built by the Jesuits in 1680-1725. It has a single nave with precious sculptures at the altars of the side chapels. In the presbytery Christoph Tausch painted a Glory of St. Ignatius in 1721.
- The Palazzo Attems Petzenstein (19th century), designed by Nicolò Pacassi.
- The church of San Rocco.
- Palazzo Cobenzl, today seat of the archbishops.
- The Earls of Lantieri's house, which housed emperors and popes in his history.
- The Palazzo Coronini Cronberg, including an art gallery.
- The Transalpina railway square, divided by an international border.

SIGHTSEEING

A tour of the town must begin from its most significant monument, the imposing Castle, surrounded by the ancient irregular walls.

Founded in early medieval times, probably in the XI^o century, the Castle was damaged, destroyed and restructured many times in the course of centuries, and was finally restored to its original aspect by well carried out restoration work in 1937.

The Castle of Gorizia is today a robust and articulate construction in the shape of a pentagon around the wide Court of the Lanzi. From the Court one accesses the thirteenth-century Palazzetto of the Counts, the west part of the Castle, distinguishable for its five Romanesque two-light windows, and the fifteenth-century Palace of the Provincial States, the east part, connected to the Palazzetto by means of a connecting structure called Palazzetto Veneto.

The “representation” halls are on the main floor: the Count’s Hall, now used for conferences and congresses, and the Hall of the Provincial States, large and embellished with a superb caisson ceiling, paintings and parts of frescos, a splendid framework for important exhibitions. Finally, the Music Hall contains several copies of medieval instruments.

On the second floor are the Palatine Chapel, embellished with a beautiful collection of works of art from the Venetian school, and the so-called “Granary”, a didactic hall of the County Museum: here there are models of the ancient County, the medieval town and the Castle.

The Provincial Museums offer visitors rich collections of different kinds of objects and works of art, some of which are interesting in terms of history or folklore, others of great value in terms of art. After walking down Via D’Annunzio we come to Piazza Cavour, enriched by the elegant and sober Palace of the Provincial States, the sixteenth-century House of the Comune and the House of the Ungrispach, on the façade of which there is a sign bearing the date “MCCCCXLI” in Roman figures.

Near Piazza Cavour the Court of Saint Ilario opens out, dominated by the imposing bulk of the Cathedral, a church devoted to Saint Ilario and Saint Taziano. The present façade is the fruit of a restructuring done after the First World War: the reconstruction was entrusted to the architect E. Caraman. Of the original fourteenth-century nucleus, survives only the vestibule of the altar of the Most Holy Sacrament, which, in the XV^o century, was connected to the Chapel of Saint Acazio, that had been built according to the will of the Counts of Gorizia: the union of the two structures generated a new church, completed in 1525. The building was modified again in the XVII^o century and, as already mentioned, there have been more recent modifications. Inside one can admire the high altar in marble, with the statues of Saint Ilario and Saint Taziano, made in 1708 by Giovanni and Leonardo Pacassi.

Overlooking the nearby Piazza Saint Antonio, besides a slim colonnade, there are Palazzo Lantieri and the Palace of the Counts of Strassoldo, the only existing parts of an old convent, which, it is said, had been founded by the Sainted Abbot : the former developed from a fourteenth-century guesthouse, that the Counts of Gorizia had ordered to be built, and that is connected to the castle by an underground passage. The guesthouse, known as Schoenhaus, was left by the last Count of Gorizia to his personal physician, who sold it in 1505 to the nobleman Antonio Lantieri.

From the square we turn into Via Alviano, to see the Palazzo of the former Minor Seminary, built for the archbishop Sedej between 1908 and 1912 and now University premises. Returning to Piazza Cavour and turning into Via del Rastello we come to Piazza della Vittoria, dominated by the fairytale Fountain of Neptune, designed by Nicolò Pacassi; Palazzo Torre overlooks the square, once owned by the homonymous counts, who had it built in 1540 and today, after several modifications and enlargements, it is the headquarters of the Prefecture.

From Piazza della Vittoria we can reach the Church of Saint Ignazio, a baroque building erected by the Jesuits in 1654 but only completed in the middle of the following century.

From Piazza della Vittoria and turning into Via Mameli, the Werdenberg Palace can be admired, built between 1655 and 1747 to house the Jesuit College. Now it houses the State and Civic Library.

From via Mameli by way of via Santa Chiara we come to Viale XX Settembre, where the beautiful sixteenth-century Coronini Cronberg Palace stands (See the map): the Palace and the splendid park surrounding it were donated to the city of Gorizia by the last owner, Count Guglielmo Coronini.

Inside the building, eighteenth-century lacquered furniture in Venetian style, oriental carpets, precious cloths, porcelain, Japanese prints and sketches, Russian silver, and paintings datable from

the XVI^o to the XX^o century are conserved. There is also a rich library consisting in over ten thousand volumes of manuscripts and ancient books, and the Archive of the Coronini Counts.

Walking back Viale XX Settembre towards the centre, before entering Via Santa Chiara, it is possible to turn right into Via Cadorna and go down the steps that lead to Via Brass. Walking down Via Brass up to the crosslight and turning right into Via del Seminario, we arrive at one end of Via Carducci. Here stands the Coblenz Codelli Palace, built at the end of the sixteenth century but greatly enlarged following the addition of the Oratory devoted to the Holy Cross. In 1749 the Palace became the headquarters of the Archbishopric.

Via Carducci ends in Piazza De Amicis, where we can admire the façade of what is probably the most beautiful building in town, the Attems Petzenstein Palace, designed by Pacassi and built between 1733 and 1745; since the early twentieth century it has housed the Provincial Museums.

From Piazza De Amicis we walk up Via Silvio Pellico and we come to a small square named Piazza Medaglia d'Oro (See the map); we walk down Via Monte Santo as far as the junction of Via Monte Santo and Via Caprin; turning right and walking down Via Caprin, we reach Piazza Transalpina dominated by the historical railway station. This station was inaugurated in 1906 in the presence of several members of the Hapsburg royal family. It was the second station to be opened in the city, after the so-called "Meridionale", built in the second half of the nineteenth century, which is now the Central Station of Gorizia. The Transalpina line connected the coast directly with Austria. It had been decided by the government of Vienna for military purposes as a "second road to Trieste", in order to have a direct railway line to the southern provinces of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire without having to go through Udine. Nowadays, although the Transalpina is a charming line in terms of the scenery it passed through, it is a secondary line with a single non-electrified track, linking the Valley of the Isonzo and the Julian Alps to Sežana and Jesenice, from where one can go on towards Austria. For the past few years, programmed rides on historic trains have been organized. These fascinating steam engines take tourists from Gorizia to the lake of Bled.

In front of the elegant and impressive station building, there is a big square decorated with a mosaic created by the artist Franco Vecchiet from Trieste, on occasion of Slovenia's entry into the European Union. The mosaic is a metaphoric and poetic representation of the peaceful explosion of the milestone that, until not long ago, marked the border between Gorizia and Nova Gorica; now it epitomizes the European integration.

Inside the railway station building it's located the Border Museum; it has an exhibition on life on the territory of Gorizia from 1945 to 2004.

From Piazza Transalpina we go back to Piazza De Amicis and from Piazza De Amicis to Via Ascoli (See the map): this area was once the Jewish Ghetto and the Synagogue is here, an imposing nineteenth-century building with sober features. The present building was built towards the mid-eighteenth century to replace a more modest wooden building. The successive restructuring carried out in the XIX^o century gave it its present features, sober but elegant. Inside one can visit the very interesting didactic Museum of the "Little Jerusalem on the Isonzo" (according to the name defining the local Hebrew community), enriched with a section devoted to the great philosopher from Gorizia, Carlo Michelstaedter. Beyond the Synagogue we come to Via San Giovanni, with the homonymous late sixteenth-century church later owned by the Jesuits. Leaving Via San Giovanni at one's back and going down Corso Giuseppe Verdi, up to the crossroads with Via Garibaldi on the left side, and Via Diaz on the right one, we come to the nineteenth-century Evangelical Methodist Church, built according to the directions of Giovanni Pitteri. In Via Garibaldi one can see the Church of the Immaculate, a small building conserving some interesting paintings.

From Via Garibaldi we come to Piazza Municipio, where there is the present Town Hall, in the eighteenth-century Palazzo Attems Santa Croce: this building too was designed by the great architect from Gorizia, Nicolò Pacassi.

Keeping the Palazzo Attems Santa Croce on the left and walking on, we reach the courthouse and, further on, turning left at the corner in the direction of the Slovene border, we come to Piazza San Francesco, dominated by the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, formerly annexed to a Capuchin Convent that was destroyed during the First World War. The Church dates back to the late

sixteenth-century, but its features today are due to a restructuring carried out in the early twentieth century.¹

SOCIAL PROFILE

FOOD & DRINK: Table service is most common in restaurants and bars. There are no licensing laws.

Pasta plays a substantial part in Italian recipes, but nearly all regions have developed their own special dishes. Examples of dishes from each region are listed below. Italy has over 20 major wine regions, from Valle d'Aosta on the French border to Sicily and Sardinia in the south.

Wines are named after grape varieties or after their village or area of origin. The most widespread is the Chianti group of vineyards, governed by the Chianti Classico quality controls (denoted by a black cockerel on the neck of each bottle). The Chianti area is the only area in Italy with such quality controls. Denominazione di origine controllata wines come from officially recognised wine-growing areas (similar to Appellation Contrôlée in France), while wines designated Denominazione controllata e garantita are wines of fine quality. Vermouths from Piemonte vary from dry and light pink to dark-coloured and sweet. Aperitifs such as Campari are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include Strega, Galliano, Amaretto and Sambuca.

Typical for Friuli-Venezia Giulia are: Food: prosciutto di San Daniele (raw ham). Wines: Tocai (completely different from the Hungarian Tokaj), Malvasia, Pinot Bianco and Pinot Grigio (whites); Merlot, Cabernet and Pinot Nero (reds). At Gorizia the local food is definitely Central European, but you may also find what is considered typical Italian food.

NIGHTLIFE: Nightclubs, discotheques and restaurants and bars with dancing can be found in most major towns and tourist resorts. At Gorizia very little goes on at night. You may find some bars in the city centre and a kind of disco on the Corso Verdi, in a gallery just in front of the Public Gardens. Nova Gorica tends to be more lively, due to the presence of several casinos. Films in Italy are always translated in Italian. At Nova Gorica there is a cinema having films in the original languages.

SHOPPING: Many Italian products are world-famous for their style and quality. Care should be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators. Prices are generally fixed and bargaining is not general practice, although a discount may be given on a large purchase. At Gorizia there are two traditional shopping areas. The first one, the cheapest, is just below the castle (Piazza Vittoria, Via Rastello, Via Carducci). The second one, more trendy and expensive, is along the Corso.

SHOPPING HOURS: Mon-Sat 08.30-12.30 and 15.30-19.30, with some variations in northern Italy where the lunch break is shorter and the shops close earlier. Shops are generally closed on Sundays and Mondays. Food shops are closed on Wednesday afternoon, too.

SOCIAL CONVENTIONS: Usual Central European social courtesies should be observed. Dress is casual in most places, though beachwear should be confined to the beach. Conservative clothes are expected when visiting religious buildings (no shorts). Formal wear is usually indicated on invitations. Smoking is strictly prohibited in all public spaces: buildings, caffè, restaurants, train stations, transport, cinemas and so on. Tipping: Service charges and state taxes are included in all bills. It is customary to give up to 10 per cent in addition if service has been particularly good; minimum 1 Euro (Generally in pizzerias, cafes, bars and pubs you are not expected to leave any tip).

¹ www.comune.gorizia.it

<http://www2.comune.gorizia.it/turismo/infoturisticheen.htm>
en.wikipedia.org

PERSONAL SECURITY: Gorizia is a small quiet town. Nevertheless some basic rules should be observed, for your personal security. At night the area of the railway station should be avoided. Of course, trying to cross the border in points where you are not allowed is illegal. The only international crossings you are allowed to use are Casa Rossa/Rozna Dolina and Sant Andrea/Vrtojba. Remember to bring an identity document always with you and, if you are a non-EU country citizen, your permit-to-stay (Permesso di soggiorno).

HOW TO REACH IUIES...

A “Walking” MAP OF GORIZIA



...FROM THE AIRPORT

Outside the airport, on the right, there is the bus stop.

Take bus (blue one) number 1 to GORIZIA and get off at the train station. Buses usually run every half an hour.

The bus ticket, which you should buy at the airport, costs 2,35€+ 1,00€ if you buy it on board, instead.

FROM TRAIN STATION TO IUIES (v. Mazzini, 13):

Continue along: Piazzale Martiri per la Libertà d'Italia

Continue along: Piazzale Umberto Saba

Turn right: Via Francesco di Manzano

Continue along: Via Duca d'Aosta

Turn left: Via Fabio Filzi

Turn right: Via Nazario Sauro

Take Piazza del Municipio

Turn right: Via Giuseppe Mazzini

... Or

Just outside of the train station, in front of the train station take bus (orange one) number 1.

Please, don't get on the bus 1 if it stops on the left instead of in front of the train station!

Then ask driver to let you get off at the theatre (big orange building). The bus stops are a little bit before or after the theatre, in any case reach the theatre VERDI and take VIA GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI, go straight on until you are in front of the Town hall and then turn right into VIA MAZZINI. Iuiies office is at number 13 on the second floor.

FROM IUIES TO THE UNIVERSITY (v. Alviano, 18):

Continue along: Via Giuseppe Mazzini
Turn right: Via Guglielmo Marconi
Turn right: Piazza Cavour
Continue along: Piazza Sant'Antonio
Continue along: Via Bartolomeo Alviano

FROM IUIES TO THE PROVINCE HALL(C.so Italia, 55):

Continue along: Via Giuseppe Mazzini
Turn left: Piazza del Municipio
Continue along: Via Generale Cascino
Turn left: Corso Italia

FROM IUIES TO CONVITTO SAN LUIGI (v. Don G. Bosco, 48):

Continue along: Via Giuseppe Mazzini
Turn left: Via delle Monache
Turn left: Via Rastello
Take Piazza della Vittoria
Continue along: Via dell'Arcivescovado
Turn left: Via del Seminario
Take Piazza Nicolò Tommaseo
Continue along: Riva Piazzutta
Take Via Don Giovanni Bosco

From IUIES to the Convitto Suore della Provvidenza (v. Vittorio Veneto, 185):

Continue along: Via Giuseppe Mazzini
Turn left: Piazza del Municipio
Take Via Nazario Sauro
Turn left: Via Fabio Filzi
Continue along: Via Vittorio Veneto