

FERRARA di MONTE BALDO



Municipality of Ferrara di Monte Baldo

Piazza General Cantore n. 12 - 37020 - Ferrara di Monte Baldo (VR)

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Inhabitants 220 - Altitude 856 m. a.s.l.

Surface 26 km² - Distance from Verona 53 km



Proloco Ferrara di Monte Baldo

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1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

Ferrara di Monte Baldo is a small town situated in a verdant hollow suspended between the Adige valley to the east and the peaks of Monte Baldo to the west. It offers visitors a pleasant, relaxing stay in an alpine environment of great scenic and naturalistic interest. Some of the most fascinating itineraries of Monte Baldo pass through Ferrara, from that by car which climbs to the Botanical Garden of Novezzina and continues through vast panoramas up to the Bocca di Navene (1,430 m with a view of the lake), to those for hiking up to Punta Telegrafo (2,220 m), with its immense 360-degree panorama, or up to Cima Valdritta (2,180 m).

The name of Ferrara derives from iron deposits the Romans exploited in the valley by making slaves work for them. In the 6th century the territory of the Baldo passed under the Longobard dominion and in the following century that of the Franks. In 1193 it became a municipality with headquarters in Saugolo, then in Campedello and then to where it is currently located. The valley of Ferrara witnessed the events of armies both during Napoleon's campaigns in Italy and during the Wars of the Risorgimento.

Here they fought in the first War of Independence (1848) between the Piedmontese and Austrians. The border between Austro-Hungarian Tirol and Italian Lombardo-Veneto ran through Ferrara. Tales of military clashes and trenches existing in Novezza bear witness to these events.



2. TO SEE

Mount Baldo

Mount Baldo is a typical pre-Alpine mountain, rich in naturalistic and environmental values. The changing climatic events occurring over the millennia in the Po valley-Alpine region have determined the settlement of numerous floristic species. Starting from the shore of Lake Garda and from the lower slopes of the Adige valley, there are evergreen species of the sub-mediterranean environment. Going up through various formations, we find both alpine, rock and grassland environment species. It is easy to understand how so much floristic variety, in a single mountain environment aroused wonder in the botanists of the past centuries, who identified on Mount Baldo, previously unknown species for the first time.



Il Santuario della Madonna della Corona (The Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Crown)

In the territory of Ferrara of Monte Baldo there is a place called “the most daring sanctuary of Italy”, the Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Crown. The building, nestled on the rocks overlooking the Adige valley, has been built and rebuilt over the centuries. The current façade dates back to the late nineteenth century, while the interior was consolidated and expanded over three naves in 1978.



Sacrario del Monte Baldo (The Shrine of Mount Baldo)

The Shrine was built in 1982 by the National Association Of Soldiers and Veterans of Verona to remember the fallen of all wars born in the 98 municipalities of the province of Verona. From the shrine starts the path that leads to the Buse dei Morti. (Holes of the dead)



Le “Buse” dei Morti (The “holes” of the dead)

There is a small war cemetery dating back to 1848, the year of the first Italian war of independence, on a mound on the Basiana mountain pasture. It contains the remains of five Piedmontese soldiers from the army of Carlo Alberto and three Austrians, fallen in these places on 22 July 1848 during a bitter battle between the Piedmontese and the Austro-Hungarians.

The site of the cemetery was called “Buse dei Morti” by the alpine people and that is its name even today. It is to be remembered that the territory of Ferrara of Monte Baldo represents the area of maximum thrust by the Savoy troops, who, following the Austrians, reached Novezza and Cerbiolo in their reconnaissance. Several trenches, as well as a small Austrian “fort” are still visible from the Heights of Basiana and the adjacent hill called “Delle Peagne”.



The Botanical Garden

It rises in the Novezzina locality in the Municipality of Ferrara of Monte Baldo, on the area of an old forest nursery and represents a meeting point for scholars and enthusiasts of the Monte Baldo area and its precious floristic heritage.

In the Botanical Garden the native species of Monte Baldo are harvested, excluding any imports from other geographical areas: this is in respect of the great floristic richness of what, internationally, is recognized as "Hortus Europae". The environment is maintained according to its natural respect for the Veronese mountains, to allow scholars and enthusiasts to travel to a place rich in naturally included species.

Monte Baldo Astronomical Observatory

It is an artefact of recent construction, located in Novezzina, north of the town. It can be visited upon reservation.

Info www.osservatoriomontebaldo.it



Il Vaio dell'Orsa

The Vaio dell'Orsa (Vair of the Bear) comes to life from the ENEL pond of Ferrara di Monte Baldo and descends to the valley to finally throw the waters of its torrent into the river Adige at Brentino Belluno. The Vaio dell'Orsa is known throughout Europe by lovers of "white water" to be one of the most fascinating technical canyoning routes.

Its leaps and potholes make it wonderful even if sometimes terrifying. Anyone wishing to go downhill does not necessarily have to have technical capacity, in fact a certain amount of "courage" and suitable equipment is sufficient. In any case it is advisable to go down accompanied by expert guides as once you pass the first part of the route it's not possible to return

Tourist guide for the Baldo Garda area

to the start and you are obliged to descend downstream to the valley. The guides provide, in addition to their experience, all the technical material used in the vair (wetsuit, floatation vest, helmet, ropes, etc...)



3. FOOD AND WINE

The Pro Loco organizes, upon booking, the Wine and Food Tour in July and August for lunch and dinner among the local restaurants. Prices are fixed and you have the opportunity to taste the specialties from the Baldo area, from the pecorino



of the mountain pastures to the fresh ricotta combined with

pasta carbonara, from wild boar with polenta to bread dumplings, from beef goulash to hunter's rabbit, from gnocchi di malga (mountain style gnocchi) to pasta with a venison sauce.



4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE

The municipality of Ferrara di Monte Baldo is the smallest town in the province of Verona that has the lowest number of inhabitants. There are only 200 inhabitants

but only about sixty are permanently resident in the winter period. Therefore, it is clear that events and demonstrations are concentrated only in the summer months or near Christmas holidays periods. On the third Sunday of July, Santa Caterina d'Alessandria is celebrated with the Festival of the flavours of Baldo. Lunch and dinner are made with Baldo truffles and local products. Every Sunday in July and August the market for handicraft and hobbies takes place. The second Sunday in November there is the Castagnata (the roasting of chestnuts) in the company of the local Civil Protection. A Christmas market and the "Waiting for Saint Lucia" event are organized in December.



5. ITINERARIES

The charm of the mountain has no season

and if in summer the excursions are immersed in greenery, with the arrival of autumn and the first snowfalls, the paths gradually become white. With skis, snowboards or the snowshoes, Monte Baldo is an ideal destination for those who choose to spend a day at altitude enjoying a wonderful view of Lake Garda. The Baldo area is divided between the Veneto and Trentino and an access route is the cable car that departs from Malcesine on

Tourist guide for the Baldo Garda area

the Veronese side of Lake Garda.

For a high altitude visit to the many “rifugi” (*basic mountain restaurants*) there is only an embarrassment of choice. There prevails the family management typical of the mountain areas with the traditional Alpine cuisine such as grilled meat, canederli (*bread dumplings*), bigoli (*local pasta slightly thicker than spaghetti*) and lasagna and the inevitable polenta with stewed meats.



Below is a brief list of “rifugi” for both eating and sleeping in. For more detailed info search on websites.

- Rifugio Barana (2,147 metres) on the peaks of Mount Baldo open in the summer months.
- Rifugio Fiori del Baldo
- Rifugio Chiarego

