

A STARTING POINT FOR WINTER SKIING AND SUMMER EXCURSIONS

LA VAL DI ZOLDO

In the heart of the Dolomiti Bellunesi, the Val di Zoldo offers the enchanting spectacle of untouched nature, interesting historical-cultural itineraries and, for sport lovers, lots of pleasant proposals both in Winter and Summer time. The wonderful district of Mount Civetta boasts a vast skiing carousel, about 100-km long, always perfectly covered with snow and dominated by the breathtaking mountain scenery.

VAL DI ZOLDO: THE VILLAGES

In the northern part of the splendid Park of the Dolomiti Bellunesi, there lies the Val di Zoldo that stretches along the course of the river Maè, from Forno di Zoldo, a lively centre at the beginning of the valley, up to the Staulanza fork.

The area, known since the 13th century as an important mining centre, is rich in gentle slopes, green fields, charming panoramas and woods dominated by the majestic Dolomite Groups of Bosconero, Mezzodì, San Sebastiano, Moiazza, Pelmo and Civetta. From the Staulanza fork - the pass that connects the Val di Zoldo with the Val Fiorentina - you can move farther towards Lake Alleghe.

An ideal holiday place, the Val di Zoldo alternates picturesque villages lying at the bottom of the valley with Dolomite passes on the slopes of snow covered peaks. The historical-cultural heritage of the valley is quite interesting and has made the area become one of the most visited resorts also by those who love cultural itineraries besides the naturalistic ones. With the main tourist centres of Pécol and Forno di Zoldo, it also offers many leisure opportunities such as evenings at the cinema, ice cream shops and walks in the silent woods.

There are welcoming and family run accommodation facilities, equipped with all the comforts, and a delicious typical local gastronomy that can contribute to making your stay there unforgettable.

Val di Zoldo is a fascinating destination to experience any kind of excursion, hiking and climbing in Summer as well as a paradise for ski lovers in Winter time.

FORNO DI ZOLDO (848 m)

Surrounded by the Dolomite Groups of Bosconero (m. 2468) and San Sebastiano (m. 2436), Forno di Zoldo lies in the middle of the valley at the confluence of the Prampera and Mareson streams. In Summer it is an extremely good starting point for wonderful excursions and climbing tours. If today Forno di Zoldo is a quiet holiday resort, from the 15th to the 17th centuries it was an important mining centre, mainly specialized in the extraction of iron, lead and zinc and in the iron and steel industry. A witness of this past is the Museo del Chiodo (Nail Museum), the tool that for a long time has characterized the economy and the life of the population of Zoldo. Spread all over the valley, you can still find a few handicraft workshops producing iron and wooden artefacts.

The "Gnaga" - the double mask representing an old woman that wears big clogs and carries a young man in a basket - is the carnival's main character exhibited during a contest of wooden mask sculptures taking place at Fornesighe di Forno di Zoldo. You can also find remarkable traces of carving, painting and architecture in private dwellings and in some noble villas. Before leaving Forno di Zoldo it is worth visiting the Pieve di S. Floriano dating back to the 15th century. Its façade is embellished with some frescoes by Tiziano Vecellio's school. Inside, rich in suggested motion, there is the "Altare delle Anime" by Andrea Brustolon (1662-1732), the great sculptor from Belluno called "the Michelangelo of the wooden sculpture".

ZOLDO ALTO (1495 m)

The Commune of Zoldo Alto, today a well-known Summer and Winter holiday resort located in the high valley with the same name, is formed by nine little villages, standing on both the sides of the river Maè and surrounded by the majestic Dolomite peaks that border the valley itself. At Goima you can visit the Ethnographic Museum, established in 1997 with the aim of collecting, ordering and studying the tools and evidence of the history, economy, dialect language, folklore, habits and traditions of the valley. It is divided into various sectors connected to the different activities carried out by the population over the centuries, from agriculture to metallurgy, from carpentry to weaving and footwear industry. Also the Parish Church and the "tabià", the typical wooden and stone buildings, deserve to be noted.

THE SKIING DISTRICT OF MOUNT CIVETTA

The ski-slopes of the Val di Zoldo, stretched around the centres of Pecol and Palafavera in the area of the Pelmo and Civetta Groups, are connected with the ones of Alleghe and Selva di Cadore.

Together they form the Carousel of Civetta, the largest ski-district in the Veneto region: 46 perfectly groomed ski slopes, running from 2100 to 1000 metres of altitude, equipped with 27 modern facilities and perfectly set in the natural landscape.

People can benefit from ski-slopes of all levels of difficulty, suited to the needs of beginners up to expert skiers and even theatre of the World Cup ski races.

The district of Mount Civetta is part of the largest Dolomite Superski dominion, rich in 1200 km of slopes spread around 12 villages.

At Zoldo Alto there are some downhill slopes, spread over 5 km, even lit up at night.

The cross-country slope the "Palafavera", 7.5-km long, is set in the solitude and peace of the landscape. There is also the slope of Campo, lit up at night.

Training courses of downhill skiing, carving, snowboard, telemark are run by qualified trainers.

Alpine skiing lovers can avail themselves of at least three tours: the Vant de le Forzèle starting from Pralongo, the Eastern side of the Forcella della Moiazzetta della Grava starting from Crep de Pécol and the Forcella Staulanza going upwards to the Val d'Arcia.

Other but more difficult routes are also available.

Those who are fond of other sports can enjoy two snow-parks.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS AT HIGH ALTITUDES

In Summer, the Val di Zoldo becomes a charming destination for excursions at high altitudes, to be enjoyed on the slopes of the majestic Groups of Pelmo and Civetta. These peaks, among the most beautiful ones of the Dolomites and most loved by those who are fond of climbing, host about 100 km of trails. There are routes with fixed ropes such as the Tissi and the Alleghesi on Mount Civetta and the Costantini on Mount Moiazza. Very interesting as well is the Anello Zoldano, a trekking route in the medium-high valley of Zoldo, that takes 6 days and runs from hut to hut.

Trekking paths run along the main mountain groups of the valley too. Amongst the possible destinations, there is the route to the Palmetto on the Zoldano slope, that offers the opportunity of admiring the traces of the dinosaurs and the prints of prehistoric animals, a precious contribution to help you to get to know the geological history of the Dolomites. Also the route through the places that were the theatre of the "Great War" brings back historical memories with relics of galleries and military posts: Monte Punta, Moschesin, Monte Rite and Spiz Zuel, renowned for their beautiful ski slopes, but also the setting of bloody battles during the First World War.

Cuisine

TYPICAL CUISINE

You will have the opportunity to taste the dishes of the local cuisine, simple but delightful, in a range of characteristic restaurants.

The food has maintained the features of the tradition of the mountain cuisine, always made with natural ingredients. Even the natural water of the Dolomites, so fresh and delicious to drink, is a basic ingredient of bread and "polenta", boiled potatoes, "gnocchi", "canederli", cakes and biscuits. Also the second courses are skilfully prepared according to the traditional recipes: the flavoured rabbit, chicken, game, cabbage accompanied with pork ribs and the typical "pastin" made of a mixture of salami, flavoured with herbs and browned. Among the local cheese, there are the soft and fresh "ricotta", also smoke d, and the "formai frit". The digestives and the traditional "grappa" are flavoured with local herbs or forest fruits.

Getting to Val di Zoldo

By car: A27 Motorway, exit Pian di Vedoia. Then drive along SS 51 of Alemagna up to Longarone and along 251 road to Forno di Zoldo.

By train: Longarone-Zoldo station, FS railway from Padova or Venezia. Bus connection. **By plane:** Venezia or Treviso Airport.

INDIRIZZI UTILI

Consorzio promozione turistica Val Zoldana Via Rodolfo Balestra,1 - Zoldo Alto Tel. 0437 788907 civetta@dolomiti.it - www.val-zoldana.com

Ufficio turistico di Zoldo Alto - Loc. Mareson Viale Dolomiti, 4 - Tel. 0437 789145 zoldoalto@infodolomiti.it

Seggiovie Valzoldana S.p.A. Sede centrale: piazza Rodolfo Balestra, 1 Zoldo Alto - Tel. 0437 789295

Soccorso alpino di Zoldo - Tel. 118

Museo del ferro e del chiodo - Palazzo Capitaniato Via S. Francesco - Forno di Zoldo info: Municipio - tel. 0437 78144 IAT Forno di Zoldo Via Roma, 10 - Tel. 0437 787349 fornodizoldo@infodolomiti.it Promozoldo via Pecol, 10 - tel. 0437 788827 www.dolomiti.it Museo etnografico della valle di Goima Zoldo Alto Tel 0437 797038 0437 797055 Soccorso alpino Tel. 118