

To travel agencies  
To tour operators  
To journalists

**RE: Slow Tourism educational tour to Italy, 2-5 October 2012**

Dear Sirs,

In the frame of the Strategic Slow Tourism Project for the development and promotion of "slow" travel between Italy and Slovenia we are organizing an educational tour aimed at travel agencies, tour operators and travel journalists to present some itineraries in this growing tourism niche.

Participation is free of charge, start/return point is Trieste (that can also be reached by train).

#### PROGRAM

##### 1° DAY 02/10/2012 - Trieste/Udine/Venezia

9.00 - Arrival at Centro didattico naturalistico di Basovizza/Nature Educational Centre of Basovizza (Address: Basovizza 224 - 34149 Trieste; tel. +39-040-3773677 - *There is a public car park a few steps away from the Centre. The Centre can be reached by local buses n. 39 and n. 51*).

9.15 - Welcome by Mr Diego Masiello, inspector of the Regional Forestry Corps and Prof. Moreno Zago of the University of Trieste.

9.30 - Guided visit to the Nature Educational Center and presentation of the area and its slow tourism offer.

10.00 - Multivision projection: "From the Adriatic Sea to the Karst: time to live, time to breathe" by Franco Toso and Roberto Valenti (duration 15 min.).

10.15 - Presentation of products (maps and multimedia for iOS devices) to accompany hikers along the trail "Foresta d'Acqua/Water Forest" realized within the Slow Tourism Project.

10.30 - Meeting with operators of the Slow Tourism network of Trieste.

11.00 - Departure to Aquileia, visit of archaeological site and mooring post for boats that go up the Natissa River (site of the pilot action).

14.00 - Business lunch with operators of the Province of Udine in a »slow« establishment where a video about the provincial territory will be shown.

15.00 - Departure to Palmanova town - short stop to visit the town walls and square (Palmanova has applied to become a Unesco Heritage Site).

16.00 - Departure to Portogruaro, guided city tour and short walk through the historical centre. The town spreads along the banks of the Lemene River, a navigable spring river that fostered the urban settlement. The town is located in the Eastern Veneto Region that borders with Friuli Venezia Giulia to the East. The flat environment is characterised by a richness of water thanks to several springs feeding waterways that flow southbound towards the Adriatic coast. Portogruaro is located in a borderland between flatland and sea, between Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia.

18.30 - Meeting among »slow« operators of Eastern Venice area and Slovenian participants to the educational at the offices of VEGAL local development agency.

Dinner at a typical »trattoria« in Concordia Sagittaria.

Overnight in Portogruaro at an accommodation establishment adhering to the SLOWTOURISM network.

##### 2° DAY 03/10/2012 - Treviso

8.30 - Transfer to the Northern area of the Province of Treviso called »Alta Marca Trevigiana«

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9.30-10.30 - Visit to a winery or hill vineyard where Cartizze wine is produced - itinerary through the hills where Prosecco DOCG is produced from Valdobbiadene to Follina will follow.

10.45 - Visit to the Abbey of Follina, founded in the 12th century, that was a spiritual and peaceful island for many centuries notwithstanding the historic vicissitudes that steeped medieval Venetian lordships in blood. The Abbey building dates back to the first half of the 14th century and after the fall of the »Serenissima« Venetian Republic the monastery went through a slow decline until it lost its monastic state. The cloister of the end of the 13th century is worth a visit for the sense of beauty and harmony that it conveys. Currently it is a destination for numerous visitors.

12.00 - Itinerary from Follina to Refrontolo with visit to Molinetto alla Croda, an ancient watermill located in an enchanting scenery.

12.30 - Lunch at a »slow« agritourism establishment.

13.30 - Departure from Refrontolo towards Conegliano RONCADE.

14.30 - Meeting in the town centre of Roncade to visit the Castle that was given to the Earls of Collalto by Emperor Otto II in the 10th century. Afterwards it was destroyed by Cangrande della Scala. It was the Venetian nobleman Girolamo Giustinian who had the castle rebuilt according to the previous building design in the 16th century. The Castle of Roncade is one of the most characteristic evidences of rural cultural in the Venetian society. Located in a nice town in the Province of Treviso, it is only a few minutes away from the Province of Venice.

15.30 - Meeting with the »slow« operators of the Marca Trevigiana at the castle.

A guided visit to the Benedictine Abbey of Saint Mary of Pero in Monastier di Treviso will follow. The Abbey was founded further to a grant by emperor Otto I the Great in 958 and it rose along the banks of the Pero river to control the trade of the adjacent harbor of Roman origins. Most of the materials used for the construction of the first buildings come from local Roman edifices: villas, graves, storehouses. We are only a short distance from the Roman road Claudia Augusta through which salt produced in the Venetian lagoon reached Central Europe.

19.00 - Dinner at Restaurant »LE VIE« with food coming from local production and Fair Trade, adjacent to the National Archaeological Museum of Altino (Province of Venice). During the dinner and afterwards, meeting of journalists and operators of the Venetian area.

Overnight in Dolo (Province of Venice) in a restored 16th-century monastery.

### 3° DAY 04/10/2012 - River Po Delta / Rovigo

Full day excursion to the River Po Delta Park.

9.30 - Welcome at Cà Vendramin and guided visit to the Regional Drainage Museum, important complex of industrial archaeology representing the most vivid evidence of the mechanized drainage in the territory of River Po Delta.

10.30 - Transfer to Gorino Sullam/Santa Giulia (transfer of ca. 15 km, two very close places connected by a pontoon bridge on the River Po branch called Po di Donzella).

11.00 - Boat excursion: boarding to a trip of recreational fishing to the extreme borders of River Po Delta Park with the fishers of the Ariano Polesine Fishers Cooperative. After navigating till the mouth of the River Po branch called Po di Gnocca we will head for the Sacca di Scardovari to learn and experience the trade of clam farmers and enter the groves of reeds, fully immersed in the nature attractions offered by the River Po Delta Park.

13.00 - Disembarkation and lunch at a typical restaurant with local seasonal fish.

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14.30 - Scenic bike ride along the Circuit of the Donzella (or alternatively to the extreme border of the Ariano Island to reach the River Po branch called Po di Goro and end with a visit to the Ethnographic Museum of Tenuta Goro Veneto).

17.30 ca. - Meeting with »slow« operators of the River Po Delta area.

18.30 - Transfer to the natural area of Canneviè (location: Volano - Codigoro - Ferrara). The natural area of Canneviè-Porticino has a surface of 67 ha and represents the remains of a much larger valley that was drained from the Fifties and is equipped with a Visitors Centre, a restaurant and a conference centre. Quite peculiar are the typical building called Casone di Porticino and the old Fishing Station of Canneviè that was restored recently. The well-equipped trails allow access to the natural area and observation of numerous species of birds.

20.00 - Dinner and overnight at Canneviè Hotel (adhering to the SLOWTOURISM network within the Po Delta Tourism Cluster). Evening dedicated to the presentation of the tourist offer by the Po Delta Tourism Cluster adhering to the Slowtourism network.

#### 4° DAY - Ferrara - Comacchio - Cervia

8.30 - Departure from Canneviè Hotel

8.45 - Guided visit to the Abbey of Pomposa

The Abbey of Pomposa dates back to the 6th-7th centuries when a Benedictine settlement rose on what at that time was called Insula Pomposia, a forested island surrounded by the river branches and protected by the sea. Ancient art lovers will admire the set of frescoes in the Saint Mary Basilica, one of the most precious giottesque paintings in the whole province, and the beautiful mosaic floor with inlaid precious marble pieces laid between the 6th and the 12th centuries.

10.00 - Departure to Comacchio

10.30 - Arrival at Valli di Comacchio and boat excursion.

In Valli di Comacchio it will be possible to follow a historic-natural itinerary to discover fishing places and an unusual and evocative environment with a visit to the old fishing stations.

13.00 - Lunch with typical products at Bettolino di Stazione Foce and meeting with Slow operators and representatives of the Project Partners DELTA 2000, Province of Ferrara and Emilia-Romagna Park Authority.

14.30 - Bike ride towards Comacchio and guided visit the historical centre of the lagoon town of Comacchio and to Manifattura dei Marinati (marinade processing factory).

Comacchio is world-known for its monuments and traditions highlighted by the wonderful centre characterized by bridges and canals.

The Manifattura dei Marinati is a centre for the production of marinade eels presided over by Slow Food, where in Fall the whole processing cycle of anchovies and eels. A historical heritage is linked to numerous »Marote«, typical fish farming flat boats, located at the entrance and inside the Visitors Centre.

16.00 - Departure by coach to Cervia

17.00 - Arrival at the Visitors Centre of »Saline di Cervia« (Cervia's Saltworks) guided visit on foot, local food tasting among which some products processed with Cervia's »sweet« salt and Pinewood honey.

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Salina di Cervia is the southernmost station of River Po Delta Regional Park and is considered a highly interesting environment for its nature and landscape, so much so that it was inserted in the Ramsar convention as Humid Zone of International Importance.

The Salina Visitors Centre, information point of River Po Delta Park, is the starting point for guided visits to Salina di Cervia. Inside the Centre an educational itinerary stretches allowing visitors to deepen historical and economical issues linked to salt production.

18.30 - Return to Trieste and end of tour.

Portogruaro, 07/08/2012

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