

## 2013 Italy: Dolomites & Venice, Croatia, Slovenia by [tom@photoseek.com](mailto:tom@photoseek.com)

- \*\*\* **Shorter Walks in the Dolomites** by Gillian Price 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed: is referenced throughout as **"SWD" with Hike#**.
- \*\*\* **Rick Steves' Venice 2013. Croatia & Slovenia 2012.**
- **Lonely Planet: Hiking Italy 2010** describes longer routes
- **"GPS" in this document marks Tom's Waypoints for this device: Garmin 2595LMT GPS** (at Costco) speaks turn-by-turn routes! Add Europe module; lists lodging & phone #'s. **Garmin Basecamp** for PC pre-plans hundreds of Waypoints and records Routes (each Route must break into <600 miles and <30 waypoints). [Google Maps are much better, but they require a smart phone/tablet.]

- **US\$1.33 per € euro = 0.75 € per US\$** on 6/12/13

- Italy jet lag is **Seattle + 9 hours** (GMT+1 hour)

### Carry-on:

- <3.4 oz/100ml **fluid** bottles in quart bag
- all **camera batteries**, with **taped contacts**, each in **separate plastic bag** (NOT checked), one book **safety matches**, 1 **lighter** (NOT checked)

### Checked luggage:

- **Folding knife**, **hiking poles**, **non-critical items**, **hot drink thermos**

## Mobile phones in Europe

Tom has a **Sony Ericsson Equinox 4-band GSM phone**. **Buy SIM at phone store, get help how to check credit balance; make call** to shop's phone. If calling from SIM card's home country, expect ~10 to 20 cents per minute for **domestic calls to fixed lines**, more to **mobile phones**, more if **roaming** outside SIM's country, and **free to receive calls**.

➤ If you'll call home, buy **prepaid internation. calling card** in USA.

➤ In Italy, **buy an Italian SIM card**:

1. When calling **within Italy leave off the 39**, then dial **entire number, including initial zero** (no "city codes" anymore) plus area code (even from within it). Italian **land line numbers all start with a "0"** (041 for Venice, 06 for Rome, 055 for Florence). **Italian cell phone numbers** start with 338, 339, 439, or any other **trio of non-zero numbers**. Toll-free numbers in Italy now start with **800**, free within but cannot be called from outside. [www.reidsitaly.com/planning/comm/dialing\\_italy.html](http://www.reidsitaly.com/planning/comm/dialing_italy.html)
2. How to call **Slovenia** from **Italy**: dial **00 + 386 + number**.
3. Dial **Croatia** from **Slovenia**: **00 + 385 + Areacode + #**, or mobile phone: **00 + 385 + 9xx.xxx.xxx**. Only **within Croatia** do you dial the number (**0**) shown within parentheses.
4. In Italy, to call home, first dial Italian international prefix **00**, then your country code (US/CAN: **1**, UK: **44**, AUS: **61**, NZ: **64**), then **area code** and **local number**... Expensive!...unless using international calling card, or using Internet cafe email or Skype.
5. When **calling to Italy from outside**, start with your country's international dialing prefix (US/CAN: **011**, UK/IRE: **00**, AUS **0011**, NZ: **00**), then dial number with initial 39.

**KLM** offers a good optimal flight from Seattle over the North Pole:

- Seattle (SEA) - Amsterdam (AMS), Flight **KL6163**, Departure Fri 12 Jul 2013 18:10, Arrival Sat 13 Jul 2013 13:00 Total travel time 9h50m  
Amsterdam (AMS) - Venice (VCE), Flight **KL1655**, Departure Sat 13 Jul 2013 14:35, Arrival Sat 13 Jul 2013 16:20, Total travel time 1h45m
- Venice (VCE) - Amsterdam (AMS), Flight **KL1650**, Departure Sat 10 Aug 2013 06:50, Arrival Sat 10 Aug 2013 08:50, Total travel time 2h0m  
Amsterdam (AMS) - Seattle (SEA), Flight **KL6033**, Departure Sat 10 Aug 2013 10:30, Arrival Sat 10 Aug 2013 11:40, Total travel time 10h10m

## Priorities: Itinerary with **overnight refuges (green)**.

1. July 12 Fri: Fly **Seattle** late afternoon overnight to **Amsterdam**.
2. July 13 Sat: Arrive in **Venice** late afternoon. Venice night 1 of 4.
3. July 14 Sun: **Venice** night 2 of 4, Antica Raffineria in Cannaregio
4. July 15 Mon: **Venice** night 3 of 4, Antica Raffineria
5. July 16 Tues: **Venice** night 4 of 4, Antica Raffineria
6. July 17 Wed: **Venice car rental** > 3.5hrs > \*\*\***Brenta Dolomites Rifugio Tucket** or **Rifugio Brentei** overnight.
7. July 18 Thu: Hike out. > Drive 1.7 hrs > **Bolzano**: \*\***Iceman**; \*\***Castelo Roncolo/Runkelstein Castel**. **Flexible/rain day**.
8. July 19 Fri: 45min > \*\*\***Kareree/L.Carezza**, \*\*hike 5mi/450m. **Rosengarten/Catinaccio Group**: \*\***Rif. Paolina** lift +night+hike.
9. July 20 Sat: Hike \*\*\***Inner Catinaccio**, **Passo Principe**, **Vaiolo Towers**: \*\*\***Rifugio Vaiolet** 3 hrs RT + **Lake Antermoia** 6.5 hrs.
10. July 21 Sun: Hike+lift down+1 hour > \*\*\***Passo Rolle**: **San Martino di Castrozza** lift. Shuttle: \*\*\***Rifugio Segantini** sunset.
11. July 22 Mon: Drive 1.1 hr > \*\***Alleghe**: hike on **Civetta** 5-10 mi/1800 ft **overnight option Lake/Rifugio Coldai**.
12. July 23 Tu: **Malga Ciapela**: \*\*\***Marmolada** lift+hike 2mi/500 ft. **Passo Pordoi south**: \*\***Bindelweg** lift+hike 4 mi/1500 ft; \*\*\***Hotel Gonzaga**. (Check **Rif. Lagazuoi** midweek availability.)
13. July 24 Wed: \*\*\***Passo Pordoi north lift view**. **Passo Sella**: \***Rifugio Demetz** lift + night option + **flexible free time**.
14. July 25 Thu: **Ortisei**: \*\***Sceda** lift, hike 3 mi, or 12 mi downhill + bus. > 40min > \*\*\***Santa Maddalena**: sunset/sunrise photos.
15. July 26 Fri: \*\***Geisler/Odle Group** hike or **flexible day**.
16. July 27 Sat: \*\***Passo delle Erbe**. Optional hike 10mi/3700 ft
17. July 28 Sun: 1.2 hrs > \*\***Lago di Braies** hike 0-10 mi/0-3300 ft.
18. July 29 Mon: 40min > \*\*\***Sesto: Val Fiscalina loop** 10.5mi/4000ft: with 3 scenic **Rifugio** overnight options.
19. July 30 Tue: \*\*\* **Sesto: Val Fiscalina loop**. \*\***Croda Rossa** lift.
20. July 31 Wed: 45 min > \*\*\***Cadini di Misurina** 5 mi loop (optional \*\***Rifugio Savio**). **Cortina**: \*\*\* **Forcella Staunies** lift.
21. Aug 1 Thu: \*\***Lago Sorapiss** 8 mi loop. **Cortina**.
22. Aug 2 Fri: 50 min > \*\*\***Rif.Lagazuoi** lift + hike + night
23. Aug 3 Sat: **Rifugio Lagazuoi** > 2.5hrs > **Domegge+ Rif.Padova** 8mi/3300 ft hike + night
24. Aug 4 Su: **Padova+Domegge**>3.5hrs> see **Vrata Valley, Slovenia**
25. Aug 5 Mon: **Krma Valley** hike 6mi/3900 ft overnight > **Stanicev Dom hut, Slovenia**.
26. Aug 6 Tues: **Stanicev Dom hut** hike out 6mi > **40min> Lake Bled**
27. Aug 7 Wed: **Lake Bled** > 3.5 hrs > **Plitvice Lakes NP** eve views.
28. Aug 8 Th: Walk **Plitvice Lakes NP** > 3.5hrs > **Piran Youth Hostel**.
29. Aug 9 Fri: **Piran** > 1hr> **Skocjan Caves** > 2.5hrs > **Titian Inn, VCE**
30. Aug 10 Sat: Fly early morning **Venice** > **Seattle** at lunchtime.

**Key:** \*\*\***Amazing/must see**. \*\***High priority**. \***Do it if time allows**.

2013 Tourist Travel card, *biglietto a tempo*, [www.actv.it](http://www.actv.it)

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- Near Venice: see fascinating archeological areas of **Altino**; Art-filled cities of **Treviso**, **Padua**, **Verona**, **Vicenza** and **Belluno**; **Brenta Riviera**; spas in **Euganean hills**. Rick Steves likes **\*\*Siena** over Florence. **Ravenna** has 1500-year-old mosaic-covered churches. **Sorrento**.
- **Mt Etna** **\*\*** eruptions, **Pompei**, **Rome** (coliseum etc)

- **Issimo**, at address: Sestiere Cannaregio 2661, is the grocery nearest to our Antica Raffineria lodging.
- **MAJER** Venice, Sestiere Ghetto Vecchio, Cannaregio 1227
- **Billa** near Sant'Alvise, Sestiere Cannaregio
- **Prix** discount supermarket (off-brands), on Fondamenta dei Ormesini
- large **Coop Adriatica** at Piazzale Roma

- [www.venicehotelmarty.com](http://www.venicehotelmarty.com) **152 Via Salaria (cross street: Via Passo Campalto)**, Campalto, Italy Tel: +39-041-542-03-41 email: [info@venicehotelmarty.com](mailto:info@venicehotelmarty.com) **Using *biglietto a tempo*, take ACTV bus Linea 5 to Campalto (the stop after Tessera)**. Or by car, take Viale Galileo Galilei, turn left on state highway (statale) to center of Campalto. BY TRAIN: From the Mestre train station take bus no. 9 and get off at the stop for the center of Campalto. BY CAR from freeway towards Venice, follow signs for Airport (Aeroporto) and turn right at bypass exit on state highway (statale) to Campalto. Campalto is on Venetian mainland 2k from Tessera Marco Polo airport. Quickly reach historic center of Venice in 15 minutes from adjacent bus stop. Safe and convenient neighborhood, walk to restaurants (**Trattoria da Vittoria**, Via Gobbi 311 - ask for Massimo , 5 minute walk, English menus), **ATM** machine, grocery, post office, banks, walk around a park 30-45 minutes. Distances: Venice Marco Polo airport 2 km, Venice historic center 16 Km, Freeways 5 Km, Treviso center 7 airport 24 Km, Padua 34 Km.
- [www.hotelvenezia.org](http://www.hotelvenezia.org) : Small dark rooms, but good breakfast. Nights of July 15-16, 2011: Hotel Venezia - Via Teatro Vecchio, 5 (angolo Piazza 27 Ottobre) - Mestre Centro – Venice, Tel. +39 041985533 e-mail [info@hotel-venezia.com](mailto:info@hotel-venezia.com) Bus stop 150 metres from hotel, shuttles back and forth every 10 minutes 24/7 (every 30 minutes at night) to Venice. Tickets at Reception.
- **Marco Polo Airport Marriott** 190€/night dbl.

## Venice Sights

- \*\* **Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore**: best view in Venice: walk up the Chiesa (church) bell tower, see Grand Canal curve.
- **40-minute gondola ride €80** covers up to 6 people (€100 at night 19:00-08:00). Don't pre-book due to fee. Walk a few blocks off main streets and away from San Marco. "Quiet ride: Sempione restaurant, Ponte dei Bareteri, 578." Six cheap **€0.50 traghetto** ("ferry") (stripped gondola) boats also cross the Grand Canal. By noon you can escape the crowds swarming across the **Rialto Bridge** by catching the gondola at the **Pescheria traghetto** stop (near **Ca' d'Oro**). Disembark in front of the Santa Sofia church. Food: **Osteria Al Bomba**, hidden at end of passageway to right of church... see [Traghetto guide](#).
- \* **Murano**: Museum of Glass, Fondamenta Giustinian 8.
- \*\* **Burano**. 20 minutes further on the #12 double decker. Next island: **Torcello**, ancient church, least-spoiled Venice.
- **Piazza San Marco. Ducal Palace**. Rialto fresh produce market. **Vaporetti** (boats) along **Riva Schiavoni** main waterfront.
- Photography:
  - **Chioggia**: elaborate fishing schooners
  - **Doorways, bridges, boats, backstreets**
- Navigation: Follow the signs to **San Marco** into Venice... and find your way to **Piazza Roma** for bus #5 back to VCE airport.

• **July 20, 2013** (every July on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday) **Redentore Fireworks Festival 11:30-12:20pm**: starting before sunset, boats decorated with balloons, festoons, lights gather in **Saint's Mark Basin** and **Giudecca Canal**. On July 13, 1577 the plague was declared finally over and from then on Venice celebrated every third Sunday of July with religious observances and a popular feast. A bridge of boats, 330m long, straddles Giudecca Canal to reach **Redentore basilica**, where the faithful celebrate, especially the Votive Mass presided by the Patriarch.

## ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB in Mestre/Venice

Via Fiume, 47-a; 30171 - Venice-Mestre (Ve)

Tel. / Fax 041-938198 e-mail: segreteria@caimestre.it

Monday: 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sunday: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Most **rifugi** are operated by **Club Alpino Italiano** [www.cai.it](http://www.cai.it)

## Buy Dolomites hiking maps

1. Tabacco n. **053** - 1:25,000. Brenta Dolomites
2. Tabacco n. **025** or 015 - 1:25,000. Allege: Civetta
3. Tabacco n. **05** - 1:25,000. Seceda & Passo Pordoi & Sella area
4. Tabacco n. **06** (or 029) - 1:25,000. Rosengarten/Catinaccio, Karersee, Bindelweg/Viel del Pan, Marmolada
5. Tabacco n. **030** - 1:25,000. Passo delle Erbe, Sass de Putia; **Odle**
6. Tabacco n. **010** - 1:25,000. Sesto: Val Fiscalina
7. Tabacco n. **016** - 1:25,000. Rifugio Padova
8. Tabacco n. **03** for Cortina d'Ampezzo, Lagazuoi, Cadini di Misurina, and Lago di Sorapiss. [already bought by Tom 2011]

## Italian language: food, lodging

Contact local **Azienda di Soggiorno** (tourist offices) to book lodging:

- Madonna di Campiglio [www.campiglio.to](http://www.campiglio.to)
- Cortina d'Ampezzo [www.dolomiti.org](http://www.dolomiti.org)
- Val di Fassa [www.fassa.com](http://www.fassa.com)
- Val Gardena [www.val-gardena.net](http://www.val-gardena.net).

Tourist info and problem resolution:

Easy Italia Phone (country code 39) **039-039-039**, 9AM-10PM.

- **Piacere**="pleased to meet you" formal
- **Ciao** = informal hello and bye
- **Scusi, Dov'è il Bagno Per Favor?** = Excuse me, where is the toilet, please?
- **Grazie** = thank you
- **Il conto**= "the bill" usually includes the tip.
- **tavola calda** = self-service eatery. **Artigianale**=homemade.
- **rosteria** = cooked meats, takeaways.
- **Pizzaria** is best cooked **al forno**=in a wood-fired oven.
- **osteria** = classic Italian bar with simple local food
- **trattoria** = more homey, less expensive than a **ristorante**. Outside, look for posted menu and **pane e coperta**=cover charge (expect ~€2), plus possible service charge.
- Typical **ristorante** meal: free fresh bread is brought first, **antipasto**=appetizer, **primo**, **contorni**=side/vegetable dish, **secondo**, **dolce**. **Insalata**. No tap water -- bottled instead.
- Traditional South Tyrolean dishes: **canederli allo** (dumplings), **gnocchi di ricotta**, home-made **spec** & other cured meats, apple strudel, local cheeses, **carne salada** with **grana trentino**, local vegetables and herbs, **canederli al puzzone di Moena** and **fagottino di mele renette**, **fontina**=cheese.
- **Campeggi** = campgrounds "most with **bungalows**" except in Dolomites. [www.camping.it](http://www.camping.it) unhelpful site.
- A **pensione** or an **albergo** (hotel) is graded with stars: \*=fourth class, \*\*=third class, \*\*\*=second class.
- **Garni**=less pricey bed & breakfast.
- **Meuble alberghi** (furnished hotels, have kitchen or B&B) **Locande (inns) & alloggi or affittacamera**
- **Half Board/HB/demi-pension** = dinner+breakfast.
- **Pension** = all meals.
- **Matrimoniale /camera matrimoniale** = Double room with double bed; twin beds=**doppia**.

## Rifugi and hiking terms

- **Always phone ahead for Rifugi. Must reserve, especially in August**, although Italian law requires **rifugi** to accept travelers if time is insufficient to reach other accommodations before dark. To avoid a crowd, **settle bill in evening instead of morning**. Bedding, pillows, & blanket provided. Usually no showers but some have hot water basin.
- **Alte Vie**: six famous hut-to-hut high walking routes.
- **Vie Ferrate** = Iron Paths. **Percorsi Alpinistici Attrezzati** = iron-equipped climbing paths
- **Funivia**=tram or cable car. **Ovovia**=gondola. **Seggiovia**=chairlift.

**Rifugio-to-rifugio**: "Hike a loop hut-to-hut or better yet, do a **traverse**: hiking from chic **Cortina d'Ampezzo**, filled with Italian style, to the valley of **Alta Badia**, the intersection of Austrian and Ladin cultures." - [www.dolomitmountains.com](http://www.dolomitmountains.com)



## Italy: Dolomites

- July 12 Sunrise: **5:34am**: shoot **5:20am-8:30am+**
- Sunset: **8:58pm**: prime shooting **7:00pm-9:45pm**
- 10% of Italy is in National Parks, but only 2% of USA.
- High tourist season=July-August, Feb-March, Christmas, Easter.
- Stores are open 8:30-12:30, 3:30-7:30.

### Weather / When to visit

- Bolzano mountains: [www.provincia.bz.it/meteo/tempo-montagna.asp](http://www.provincia.bz.it/meteo/tempo-montagna.asp)
- Veneto: [www.arpa.veneto.it/previsioni/en/html/meteo\\_dolomiti.php](http://www.arpa.veneto.it/previsioni/en/html/meteo_dolomiti.php)

#### Hike the Dolomites from June through October.

- Weather in **September-October** is consistently clear & warm.
- In **August**, the Dolomites roads are frighteningly crowded, trails have traffic problems, huts are full and locals grumpy.
- Be active in mornings. **During thunderstorm cycle, be finished by 2:00pm.** Mid-August has frequent afternoon thunderstorms.
- Southeast and southwest Dolomites get more fog.
- Drier weather is found in northern area near **Val Pusteria**.
- **Higher Regions (1200+ meters):**

##### Corvara, Cortina, Badia, La Villa, Sesto, Misurina, Arabba:

- Rainy in May and June
- **Afternoon thunderstorms** June and July
- Summer : May – October >highs ~24° (70's)
- Winter : December – March >highs ~3° (30's)
- **Lower Regions (800-1000 meters) :**
- **Brunico, Dobbiaco, Caprile, Alleghe**
  - Afternoon thunderstorms June and July
  - September is a relatively stable, air crystal clear.
  - Summer : May – October >highs ~28° (80's)
  - Winter: December – March >highs ~5° (30's)
- Huts close in spring from late April to 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

### Brenta Dolomites / Madonna di Campiglio



- **Madonna di Campiglio:** 3.3 hrs from Venice; 1.7 hrs Bolzano.
- **\*\* Hotel Italo:** *great food & service - Tom & Carol 2013*
- **Hotel Palù,** €50 pp breakfast, ensuite, view, parking, large garden, tel. +39.0365.651.611, +39.0465.441.695, cel: +39.349.7508.890, near start of Vallesinella panoramic walk. Address: via Vallesinella, 2, 38086 comune RAGOLI [www.hotelpalu.eu](http://www.hotelpalu.eu) *tripadvisor-value-4/5*
- Rainy day:
  - **\*\*waterfalls near Rifugio Vallesinella**, parking lot.
  - Also beautiful foaming waterfalls: Cascade Alte, di Mezzo and di Sotto on a branch of river Sarca.
- **Groste cableway:** 8:30am-12:30pm, then **2:00pm-5:00pm.**
- **\*\*\*Walk SWD #49 \*\*\*Rifugio Tucket** (photo, 2272m) €49pp half board [www.rifugio-tucket.it](http://www.rifugio-tucket.it) Tel: 0465-441226. **From cable car/funivia Rifugio Stoppani al Groste (2442m), hike to Tucket 1.5 hrs/4km/200m net downhill** [or hike up 1.8

hrs/4km/760m from Rifugio Vallesinella on path 317; or up 2.2 hrs via paths 317>318> 328]. 120 beds 3-25/room.

- **\* Rifugio Casinei** 1825m. Tel: 0465-442708, hike up 1hr/312m from Rifugio Vallesinella on path 318>317.
- **\*\*\*Rifugio Brentei** Hike 3 hrs from **cable car second stage at Groste** (or 2.7 hrs/669m up from **Rifugio Vallesinella** on paths 317>318 **Bogani Path.**) Tel: 0465.441.244 (*photo on SWD Cicerone cover*; is where a Wilderness Travel trip stays overnight).

### Bolzano

- **Bolzano** region is called **South Tirol** by Austrians and **Alto Adige (Upper Adige)** by Italians.
- The **"Road of the Dolomites"**: [dolomitesport.com/overview/](http://dolomitesport.com/overview/) connects **Bolzano with Cortina d'Ampezzo** via the scenic mountain passes of **Costalunga, Pordoi, and Falzarego**. Final stretch towards Cortina reveals breathtaking Ampezzo valley.

#### Rainy day activities:

- **Pay parking:** Piazza Walther Von Der Vogelweide - €2,30/hour 6am-8pm, otherwise €0,80/h.
- **\*\* Ötzi, the Iceman**, at **South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology / Südtiroler Archäologiemuseum / Museo Archeologico dell'Alto Adige**, Via Museo/Museumstrasse 43, 39100 Bolzano: 9€. 10 am-6 pm every day, last entry 5.30 pm. Park at city lot within a few blocks, on **GPS**. [www.iceman.it](http://www.iceman.it)
- **\* Museion** - Museum for Modern and Contemporary Art - in huge photogenic glass cube, 10-6 Tues-Sunday, 6€, Thurs eve free. Via Dante, 6, 39100 Bolzano, Italy, +39 0471 223413.
- **\*\* Castelo Roncolo / Runkelstein Castel**, built in the 1200s, has the most original and intact wall frescoes of any castle in Europe, "the largest cycle of secular frescoes in the world": stories of King Arthur's knights, of Tristan and Iseult love story, of Vintler family who commissioned the frescoes, and of life in a medieval castle. Tues-Sunday 10a -6pm (last 5.30pm), €8. Tel. (+39) 0471 329808 [www.runkelstein.info](http://www.runkelstein.info) **GPS** St.Anton Straße 15 / Via S.Antonio 15, Bolzano, Italy
  - Nearby: Hotel Hanny: €70-100 pp breakfast, quiet [www.hotelhanny.it](http://www.hotelhanny.it) T: +39 0471 973498.
- **\* Messner Mountain Museum Firmian:** 10-5pm (stay til 6) closed Thursdays. €9. Walk clockwise around a central rock within **10th century chapel**. Drive Brenner-Modena motorway(A22), exit at Bozen Süd and take the Bozen-Meran highway, exit at Eppan, and follow the signs to Gailan. Address: Via Castel Firmiano, 53 / 39100 Bolzano, South Tyrol / Tel +39 0471 631264. See also MMM near Cortina, below.



#### Bolzano lodging:

- **\*\* Bolzano Youth Hostel**, [bolzano.ostello.bz](http://bolzano.ostello.bz), **28 € pp with buffet breakfast** (7.30-9:30 am) & **linen, 1-, 3-, or 4-bedded rooms, private bath per room.** Tel. +39 0471 300 865. New full kitchen. Address: Via Renon 23 (see **GPS**). 200 meters from centre train station. - **SWD2012**.
- **More Bolzano lodging:** *LP Hiking Italy 2010 p174-175.*

## Val di Fassa (Ladin area), Karersee (Lake Carezza), Catinaccio Group (Rosengarten)

Catinaccio/Rosengarten is west of Marmolada, between Tierser Tal & Eggental in South Tyrol & Fascia Valley in Trentino. [www.fassa.com](http://www.fassa.com)

**Canazei** has inexpensive lodging:

- **Hotel Garni La Zondra** €37 pp breakfast [lazondra.com](http://lazondra.com) on via Pareda, Tel 0462.601.233. RG2002
- **Ciamorc** 0462.602.426 RG2002
- **Rosengarten Guesthouse**, €32 pp breakfast, PERA DI FASSA (Pozza di Fassa) - 38036, Strada Dolomites, 201, Tel. +39 0462 764414 [www.fassa.com](http://www.fassa.com)
- **Roseal Guesthouse**, €36 pp breakfast, Pozza di Fassa - 38036, Strada Dolomites, 62, Tel. +39 0462 764291, [www.fassa.com](http://www.fassa.com)

**Pera di Fassa: Camping Soal** has **bungalows**, Strada Dolomites 190, Tel: +39 0462.764.519. [www.campingsoal.com](http://www.campingsoal.com) lists no prices.

**A. \*\*\* Karersee / Lago di Carezza / de lec ergobando** = "the lake of the rainbow" (*photo reflection*) is a must-see just west of Karerpass along SS241, in Latemar Group. **Hike options:**

1. **\*\* Hike SWD#38** 2.5 hrs 5 mi/450m for half day, or full day:
2. **P.5-7 of Donati** book: 7 hrs RT: From **Lago di Carezza Hotel**, hike Path #18 to the Prati del Latemar clearing under **awesome rock faces**, by larches, thru a **gorge**, to Piccola del Latemar saddle 2526 m. Turn right between the Cornon and Schenon (large ridge), go 1.5 hrs further to Croce/summit of the Schenon 2740m, where **panoramic views** sweep across Catinaccio, Val di Fiemme, Pale di San Martino, & Marmolada.



Photo: **\*\* Vajolet Towers / Le Torri Del Re Laurino / King Laurino's Towers / Torri del Vajolet with Rifugio Re Alberto**

Tel: 0462.763.428 [www.rifugiorealberto.com](http://www.rifugiorealberto.com)

can have pretty sunset.

Photo: enchanting

**\*\* Lake Antermoia**



**B. \*\*\*Hike SWD#36**

**Passo Principe, Vajolet Towers, Val del**

**Vajolet:** hike 1.5hrs from Ciampedie to:

- **\*\*\*Rifugio Vajolet** [www.rifugiovajolet.com](http://www.rifugiovajolet.com) 2243 m: **2-bed room avail**, €24 in 4-bed room, **€50 half board**, coin-showers. Tel: 0462.763292, Mob: 335.7073.258. Hike 6.5 hrs RT to **Refuge/Lago Antermoia**.

or lodging at **\*\*\* Ciampedie** (2000m) at top of **cableway** from **Vigo di Fassa (8:30-1:00, 2:00-6:00pm)**, €14 RT, return ticket is valid for chairlift Paolina and vice versa) or chairlift from Pera di Fassa:

- **\*\* Rifugio Bellavista** (*photo*) +39 0462.763.200 [www.RifugioBellavista.com](http://www.RifugioBellavista.com)
- **\*\*\* Rifugio Ciampedie** is cheaper than R. Gardeccia. Direct cable car from **Vigo di Fassa**. Tel: 0462.764.432 or 339.4376.354 (Long option: Trail #541 connects 2.5 hours round trip to start Rosengarten circuit.) [www.rifugiociampedie.com](http://www.rifugiociampedie.com)
- **\*\*\* Rifugio Gardeccia Hutte** [www.gardeccia.it](http://www.gardeccia.it) 1949m (*Tom & Carol 2013*). Hot showers. €24pp, or €50pp half board. 43 beds in 20 rooms. Strada de Gardeccia, 37, I-38036 Pozza di Fassa. Tel: 0462-76 31 52. Cell: 335 7432677-6. Access: with luggage take **mini-bus**

**shuttle** from **Pera di Fassa** to **refuge**; or cable car from **Vigo di Fassa** to **Rifugio Ciampedie** plus 45 min walk to **R. Gardeccia**. **R. Gardeccia photo:**



**C. \*\* Hike SWD#37** with bus (or **\*\*Rosengarten circuit**) from **Rifugio Paolina**. Both **\*\*Paolina** and **\*\*Fronza** refuges are scenic overnight bases conveniently at top of lifts:

- **\*\*Paolina refuge** 2125m, near **Karerpass** take **chairlift (08.00-12.15, 13.30-18.00)** for **magnificent views**: [www.paolina-huette.com](http://www.paolina-huette.com), €15 pp, €23 breakfast, 38 HB pp, separate bath, +39 0471.612.008 or +39 347.94.89.641.

Two **2-bed-rooms** and three 4-bed-rooms on first floor. Blankets, duvets & **bed linen are provided** (no need for sheet sleeping bag). **Shower/fee**. Shared toilet, washroom.

- **Easy 3hr walking option:** on level ground 1 hour under majestic cliffs of Rosengarten to **Ostertag refuge**, rest and admire view, then return through meadows to your car at **Karerpass** (2 hours).

## Passo Rolle, San Martino di Castrozza, Val di Fiemme

Arrive by early afternoon for

photo light, through sunset.

**Passo Rolle** is south of Marmolada, SW of Cortina. 2.5hrs Madonna di Campiglio.



- **Passo Rolle:**

**\*\*\*Rifugio Baita Segantini** 1984m (day use; *photo*

*above*) has classic mountain sunset reflection photo also good in fog! Shuttle bus every 40 min €3 each way, 15-min ride. Or walk dirt road 3 km/200m gain/1 hr via Capanna Cervino. Or park at Pian dei Casoni (road to Passo Valles) and walk beautiful Val Venegia 40 min. Tel: +39 0439 68251. [www.passorolle.net](http://www.passorolle.net)

- **Passo Rolle: \*Capanna Cervino Rifugio/Bar/Restaurant**, €35 pp breakfast (€52 HB) private room avail, shared serv, Tel: 0439.769.095 [www.capannacervino.it](http://www.capannacervino.it) - SWD2012
- **\*\*Albergo Vezzana** (great view, good food - Tom & Carol 2013) €50HB pp ensuite. Tel: 0439.68328
- **\*\*\* San Martino di Castrozza cable car (8am-5pm,** tel: 0439.68204) to **Rosetta viewpoint, SWD#46:**
  - **Rifugio Rosetta:** €47pp half board (€20 if no meals) cable car+15 min walk (or beautiful path #702 "von Lesser" in 3.3 hrs). **Hot shower** fee. 80 beds in 4-6-8-bed rooms. Tel: 0439.68.308 [www.rifugiorosetta.it](http://www.rifugiorosetta.it)
- **\*\*Youth Hostel, in San Martino di Castrozza** €34-40 pp breakfast private rooms, **spectacular view of Pale di S. M.** Located at: **Camping Sass Maor**, on Via Laghetto (GPS). Tel: 0439.769166 [www.ostellodolomiti.com](http://www.ostellodolomiti.com) -SWD2012
- **Tourist Office: AZIENDA PER IL TURISMO**, Via Passo Rolle 165, San Martino di Castrozza, 38054, TN Trentino, Italia.



## Alleghe. Passo/Forcella Staulanza.

Dinosaur tracks are 1 hr walk from Rif. Staulanza, and Passo Staulanza has good hiking views, just south of Passo di Giau. **Passo di Giau photo:**



- **\*\* Rifugio Passo Staulanza / Forcella Staulanza**  
[www.staulanza.it/eng/](http://www.staulanza.it/eng/) 13 rooms with private bathroom €60-€80, 1773m/5817 ft. Tel. +39 0437 788566, Mob. +39 338.790.0120  
Hikes nearby: dinosaur tracks, etc.

**Photo: Monte Civetta reflects in Coldai Lake:**

- **Alleghe:**  
**\*\* Hike SWD#17 Lago Coldai on Monte Civetta, via gondola+chair. 5-10 miles.**  
[Or from **Palafavera** side, take chairlift 8.30am-5pm, or walk (3.5 km, 300m ascent, 1.5 h) to Dol di Dot (1917 m) where a short descent leads to Casera di Pioda, which is **one hour walk to Lago**



- **Coldai**, 2132m, optional overnight at **Rifugio Coldai / Sonino** (+39 0437.789.160 or abitazione/home +39 0437.523.437).  
Note: At **Palafavera campground** (1507 m) on road between **Forcella Staulanza** pass and **Zoldo valley**, a small road with scree leads to parking in pasture Casera di Pioda (1816 m) but driving up isn't allowed.]
- **Hotel Barance**, €55 half board. Corso Venezia, 45 ; 32022 **Alleghe** (Belluno). Tel +39 0437723748 - +39 0437723777  
[www.hotelbarance.com](http://www.hotelbarance.com) [Same family runs \*\*Rifugio Coldai.] - SWD2012
- **La Furlanina Hotel** **\*\*good view, okay food - Tom & Carol 2013**

**Photo: Monte Civetta:**



When you're near **Alleghe, Passo Pordoi, Selva, Corvara, or Cortina:** check availability **midweek** for **\*\*\*Rifugio Lagazuoi** (below).

## Marmolada, Malga Ciapela

- **\*\*\*Hike SWD#43 Marmolada & Punta Serauta**
  - via cable car: Tel: +39.0437.522.984. Hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
[www.funiviemarmolada.com](http://www.funiviemarmolada.com)
- **\*Hotel Tyrolia**, €46-50 pp half board ensuite. Tel +390437522999, address: 32020 Malga Ciapela, south side of **Marmolada** by lift station, [www.tyroliahotel.com](http://www.tyroliahotel.com), Tripadvisor likes. **SWD2012**
- **Tourist Information Center Marmolada**: +39.0437.722.277, [www.marmolada.com](http://www.marmolada.com)

## Passo Pordoi: Sass Pordoi cable car

is on **the** north flank of Marmolada, south of Passo Gardena.

**Lodging:** Stay at spectacular **\*\*\*Pordoi Pass** (base for **SWD#41**).  
[www.passo-pordoi.it/en/por\\_index.php5](http://www.passo-pordoi.it/en/por_index.php5) 3 lodges:

1. **\*\*\*Hotel Gonzaga Appartamenti Garni** (guesthouse), Canazei - 38032 , Strèda de Pordoi, 102, Tel. +39 0462 602121, €38 pp breakfast; €100 flat - *fantastic apartment! Tom & Carol 2013*
2. **\*\*\*Hotel Pordoi** Tel. 0462.601.115, €55 pp HB - **RG2002**
3. **\* Hotel Savoia** Tel. 0462.601717, €60 pp HB - **SWD2012**

**Arabba**, cable car, alternative base for **SWD#41** loop: **RG2002**:

1. **Albergo Posta**, Tel 0436.79.105, basic but central
  2. **Garni Emma**, Tel 0436.79.116, family atmosphere by stream
  3. **Pensione Marilena**, Tel 0436.79.128, at foot of cable car, €36-30 pp buffet breakfast, parking [www.hotel-marilena.it](http://www.hotel-marilena.it)
- **Albergo Pordoi**, €33-37 pp breakfast [www.albergopordoi.it](http://www.albergopordoi.it), basic. - *tripadvisor-4.5/5*

**Passo Pordoi cable cars & hiking:**

- **\*\*\* Sass Pordoi** (2950m, lift 9am-5pm) is **one of the most sweeping and spectacular panoramas in the Dolomites**: rapid **cable car** ascent or hike up to restaurant at 2952m, starting at **Pordoi Pass** on state highway 48, Grand Strader delle Dolomiti. View to east to Ampezzo, vast glacier of Marmolada, to west rises Catinaccio Group and Sassolungo Group; and sheer walls of Sella. – *100 Itin in Dolomites* by Donati 1987, p24.
  - At top of cable car is **Rifugio Forcella Pordoi** 2849m.
- 4. **\*\*Bindelweg/Viel del Pan Walk CWD #41**: 4 miles, cable car down+bus, with incredible views of Marmolada mountain. Or **lift** 8:30-5:00pm **Canazei to Rif. Belvedere**, walking round-trip or one-way+bus:
  - From **Rifugio Belvedere**, walk 3 hours/6 km round trip to **Rifugio Viel del Pan...**
  - Or: hike 3 hours one way to Lake Fedaia + bus, 430m/1400 feet down and 120m/400 feet up, reaching 2450m/8000 feet elev, very well signposted. Can eat lunch at **Rifugio Belvedere, Rifugio Sass Bece, Rifugio Fredarola, Rifugio Vièl del Pan, or Rifugio Castiglioni**. End hike Lake Fedaia with easy transfer back to Canazei by bus. But bus frequency diminishes after the lifts stop running, so even if sunset is not until 9 pm, don't plan on hiking much past 4.30 or 5 pm ("we learned this the hard way & called a taxi.")

## Passo Sella

- **\*\* Cable car** 8.15 am - 4.45 pm from **Passo Sella** to
- **\*\* Rifugio Toni Demetz:** Panorama bedroom €26 pp, or €34 with breakfast or 56 half board, **gluten-free**.  
Tel. +39.0471.795.050, +39.0471.793.043 [www.tonidemetz.it](http://www.tonidemetz.it)
  - **\* Hike SWD#39** for 11 miles/850m.
  - **\* Start good hike at Passo Sella / Sellajoch** and climb the broad Val Lasties before heading back the eastern part of the Sella plateau to Sass Pordoi, a long day to complete both ways but has "absolutely incredible excellent changing views." 100 Itin. Dolomites Donati '87.
- **Passo Sella cable car & Rifugio Demetz** may be redundant versus previous **Sass Pordoi** lift views? See panorama bedroom.



**Map: Best of the Dolomites loop drive, 4 passes easily done in a day:**

From **St. Christina** take **Gardena Pass** (Grödnerjoch) to **Sella Pass** (Sellajoch) towards **Canazei**, then **Pordoi Pass** towards **Arabba**, then **Campolongo Pass** into **Corvara** and finally **Gardena Pass** back to **St. Christina**.

- [www.Fodors.com](http://www.Fodors.com)

- **Passo Gardena:** **Gerard Chalet** [www.chalet-gerard.com](http://www.chalet-gerard.com) €120 pp half board Tel 0471 795274 [**\*\*Tom dined here in 2011**]

## Val Gardena, Passo Gardena/Grodner Joch

**Photo: Mt Seceda via cable car from Ortisei:**

## Ortisei/ St. Ulrich pop 5000, 1236m:

- **See map for hike SWD#30:** from **Ortisei**, take
- **\*\*Mt Seceda cable car** (€18, 8:30-12:15, 1:45-5:30, then after July 21: 8:30-5:30, Tel: 0471.79.65.31) to local **trail #2A** through sloping pastures dotted with **wood malghe** (shepherds huts). Marvel at **Gruppo di Odle** spires above green meadows. Option: 1.5 hr hike to refuge from intermediate cable station.
- **\*\*Hike loop 17-20km** from **Seceda to Vallunga** to **Selva**,



then back to **Ortisei** by bus - **LP Hiking Italy 2010 p.162-164**.

[Compare with hike **SWD#31**]: **Trail #2B** descends to lovely **Prera Longia** in surreal landscape dotted with huge boulders, continuing to scenic Forcella Forces de Sielles to **Rifugio Puez** (coin **hot shower**) + **Piz de Puez** view.

- **Rainy day:** **\* Museum de Gherdeina (Local Heritage)**, Via Rezia 83, €6. 10-12, 2-6pm M-Sat. Precious sculptures & paintings of local artists of past 400 years, unique collection of ancient wooden toys, spectacular minerals and fossils.

**Ortisei lodging (ski resort with 5000 rooms):**

- **Hotel Maria** €78 pp or double? half board, +€12 full board, sauna & nearby pool, spotless, pedestrian street, Via Rezia 49, **near lift to Seceda cable-car**, at Piazza S. Antonio at Antonius church enter garage on right, **GPS**. Tel: 79.70.47. [www.hotelmariac.cc](http://www.hotelmariac.cc) - **LP Hiking Italy 2010**
- **Classic Hotel am Stetteneck** (1913) - Spa - Café: 116€ double **Junior** ensuite breakfast, very nice, cheery, ppol. 0471 79 65 63. Via Rezia 14. [www.stetteneck.com](http://www.stetteneck.com) **GPS** - **LP38RoadTrips**

## Selva / Wolkenstein (1563m):

- **\*\*\*Garni Murfreid**, 45 € (36 €<July 20) pp breakfast with 3-day minimum, **quiet** location, directly on the Sella Ronda, Dantercepies 13, Tel: 0471.794.154 [murfreid.com](http://murfreid.com) - **SWD2012** - *fantastic rooms, good food, great service! Tom & Carol 2013*
- **\*\* Vallunga Hike SWD#31 with cable car.** [See also **Seceda** routes above.] [Tom walked **\*\*Vallunga valley floor** in 2011.]
- **Hotel Linder** [www.linder.it](http://www.linder.it) 73€ pp half board, on GPS list; free private parking outside or 3€ inside; Guenther Linder, photographer who knows local photo spots [www.linder-photography.info](http://www.linder-photography.info) Tel: 0039 3487.410.702, he emailed 9/7/12 from [guenther@linder.it](mailto:guenther@linder.it)
- **Hotel Solaia:** 67€ pp half board. [Tom stayed in 2011, sewer smell fixed by closing bathroom door.]
- **Santa Cristina** is lower village to west.

## Alpe di Siusi

- **Hike \*SWD#34 Rifugio Bolzano\*\*** (10.3mi RT, but easy hiking in open fields with distant peaks may be boring).

## Corvara

- 2011: **Posta Zirm Hotel** \$200pp breakfast [www.postazirm.com](http://www.postazirm.com)

**Tourist offices** for [www.altabadia.org](http://www.altabadia.org) help find lodging:

- **Corvara:** Tel. +39 0471/836176, Str. Col Alt, 36, I - 39033 Corvara in Badia, MON - FRI: 08.00 – 12.00; 15.00 – 19.00; SAT: 08.30-12.30; 15.00-19.00; SUN: 09.00-12.00; 16.00-18.00
- **Colfosco:** Tel. +39 0471/836145
- **La Villa:** Tel. +39 0471/847037
- **San Cassiano:** Tel. +39 0471/849422
- **Badia:** Tel. +39 0471/839695
- **La Val:** Tel. +39 0471/843072



## Santa Maddalena, St. Johann in Ranui, Val di Funes/Villnoesser Valley, Geisler/Odle Group

**Photo: \*\*\*Alta Santa Maddalena church, looking south-southeast (take your photos late afternoon thru sunset).**

### Tourist office:

S. Pietro 11, Villnösser Tal, 39040 Val di Funes, Alto Adige / South Tyrol. [villnoess.com](http://villnoess.com)  
Tel: +39 0472 840 180

### • \*\*\*3-day

**value: Pension**

**Sonia: €70-80**

**double apartment**

**KITCHEN** ensuite, balcony; or **€35-38 pp breakfast VIEW** room 3-days (or +€4 pp 1-2 days), St. Magdalena 124, Tel +39 0472 840 220 GPS. [www.pensionsonia.com](http://www.pensionsonia.com) -- [tripadvisor.com](http://tripadvisor.com) #1 of 6 local.

- **\*\*\*Proihof GARNI UND APPARTMENTS** great view, €55-58 apartment with **kitchen**, cheap €28pp rooms with breakfast, farm, S. Magdalena 24, Tel: 0472 840205 GPS [proihof.com](http://proihof.com)

- **\*\*Berggasthof Zanser Alm** €40pp breakfast or €50HB pp, **great view, large parking lot** (pay if stay?) GPS Tel: +39 0472 840 543 Mobil +39 328 892 62 57 [www.zanseralm.com](http://www.zanseralm.com), [zanseralm@rolmail.net](mailto:zanseralm@rolmail.net)

- **\*\*Berggasthof Sass Rigais** at Zanser Alm view: €40pp breakfast, €48 HB. Tel: +39 0472 840133 Mobil: 393 6854358 great view [www.dolomiten-villnoess.com](http://www.dolomiten-villnoess.com)

- **\*\*Reisdenza Ranuihof** bed&breakfast €42pp+10%<3days. 1100s AD house, at **St. Johan Ranui church (see photo right)**, St. Magdalena 39, +39 0472 840506 [www.ranuihof.com](http://www.ranuihof.com). Adjacent partner hotel:



- **\*\*Ranuimüllerhof** €72pp HB +homemade cakes in afternoon, very nice. Tel: +39 0472 840 182.
- **\*\*\*Geisler Alm: walk to stunning place** €45pp+10%<3days ensuite *Room Edelweiss* or *Enzian*; also run by [ranuihof.com](http://ranuihof.com):
  1. Beautiful **walk 1.5 hrs** from **Zanseralm paid parking**: to left along old **Hay Trail Nr. 6** to **St. Zenon**, then continue right to **Adolf-Munkel Trail** to fork, take **nr. 35B**.
  2. or park free but **~2.3hrs walk uphill**: from **Ranuierboden Waldschenke (forest pub)** parking lot in St. John's, walk **Trail no. 34** (marked with sign also saying Geisler Alm). Return via **Dusleralm** to Zanser Alm, Nr. 34B
- **Rainy day: \*Brixen/Bressanone** old town, [brixen.org](http://brixen.org) Ziller Valley Alps/Sarn Valley Alps/Eisack Valley.

## Passo delle Erbe / Würzjoch

- **\*\* Hike SWD #28**: 10.3 mi, gain 1070m. Stay 2-3 nights in Zanser Alm, or Santa Maddalena, or Ranuihof, or:
- **\*\* Ütia de Börz hospitable mountain inn**, €65-76 pp half board (minus 12€ if breakfast only). 26 Str. Börz, I - 39030 San Martino in Badia/St. Martin in Thurn (BZ). €5/day for indoor parking. Tel. 0474.52.00.66 [www.passodelleerbe.it](http://www.passodelleerbe.it) - SWD'12

## Lago di Braies

- **\*\* Hike SWD#1 or 2**. "Hefty parking fees at lake."
- **Hotel Pragser Wildsee/Lago di Braies** on lake, €80 pp half board double shared bath or €86 ensuite; €89 lake view, "marvelous place to stay" says SWD2012. Tel. +39 0474 748602 [lagodibraies.com](http://lagodibraies.com)
- **Trenker Hotel**: ~3 km north of Lake di Braies, 55-63 € pp half pension [www.trenker.it](http://www.trenker.it) address: S. Vito 13 - 39030 Braies | Alta Pusteria - South Tyrol. Tel. 0474.748.629

## Sesto

- **Hike SWD#8 \*\*\*Val Fuschalina**: pick one of **three very scenic overnight Rifugios** to break up **10.5 miles/1225m gain** (see Rifugio phone numbers in SWD book):
  - **\*\*\* Rifugio Zsigmondy-Comici**
  - **\*\*\* Rifugio Pian di Cengia/Büllelejoehütte** [www.rogger.info](http://www.rogger.info)
  - **\*\*\* Rifugio Locatelli** most popular - *Ryder Walker*
  - At trailhead of Val Fuschalina is [www.dolomitenhof.com](http://www.dolomitenhof.com), expensive 124-135 € pp with half board, Tel. +39 0474 713000 - SWD2012
- **\*\*Lift (Hike) SWD#7 : Rotwandbahn lift: Bad Moos** to **Rotwand, Kabinenbahn (Bagni di Moso to Croda Rossa: Cabinovia)** Tel: 0474.710.355 (maybe redundant after hike#8?)
  - **Wellness Hotel Bad Moos**, expensive, at bottom of lift, €180 pp half board. [www.badmoos.it](http://www.badmoos.it)
  - **Rotwandwiesen Hut/Refuge** (1.924m), 200 meters from top of Rotwandbahn lift, Family of Norbert Tschurtschenthaler, Tel: 0474.710.651 Mobil 348.4439.834. Price not shown at [rotwandwiesenhuette.it](http://rotwandwiesenhuette.it), [info@rotwandwiesenhuette.it](mailto:info@rotwandwiesenhuette.it)
- Our best value Dolomites apartment: **\*\*\*Gruberhof (Köch Anna/Koeck Anna)**, St.-Silvester-Straße 6 (in **Winnebach/Prato Drava** village), 39038 Innichen/San Candido, Tel 0474 966684 - *Tom & Carol 2013*
- **Sesto lodging: Hotel Parkhotel Innerkofler**, €78-82 pp half board, Via del Parco, 3, 39030 Sesto Bolzano, Tel: 0474 710305, [www.innerkofler.com](http://www.innerkofler.com) - SWD2012, GPS
- **San Candido/Innichen**: Caravan Park Sexten, apartments €94, Tel: 71.04.44 [www.caravanparksexten.it](http://www.caravanparksexten.it), Via San Giuseppe 54, Sesto
- **San Candido/Innichen lodging: Villa Waldheim** €52+ pp Tel: 91.31.87, Via Pascolo 1. Central supermarket Despar Schafer is on Piazza San Michele 8. - *LP Hiking Italy 2010 p.177*
- **Hotel\_Appartements Strobl**, €99 (pp?) apartment, Via San Vito 8, [www.hotel-strobl.com](http://www.hotel-strobl.com), Tel. 0039 0474 710371 - tripadvisor 6 of 25
- **Hotel Willy**, €134dbl, Via Waldheim 8 [www.hotel-willy.it](http://www.hotel-willy.it) - tripadvisor 2 of 25 Sesto



## Cortina d'Ampezzo

*Photo: Lago di Sorapiss and Monte Cristallo, hiked from Passo Tre Croci.*



- **\*\* Hike SWD#13 Refugio Vandelli & Lake Sorapiss.** One hour drive from Cortina to **Passo Tre Croci Federavecchia**: walk towards **Mount Sorapis** for a beautiful view of **Lago di Sorapis**, a surreal turquoise gem. Hike to modest **Refugio Vandelli** [www.rifugiovandelli.it](http://www.rifugiovandelli.it) (8 beds in each of 6 dorms, tel. +39 0435 39015) on trails #213 and #216, about 3 hours. Iron ladders, cables, family hikeable. Return via trail #215, 1 hour and 45 minutes. (From different road, trail #217 is shorter with more gain).
- **\*\*\*Hike SWD#10: Cadini di Misurina, Rifugio Fonda Savio\*\***  
"Great food." Tel: 043 53 90 36  
*Photo: Rifugio Fonda Savio*
- **\*\* Rifugio Auronzo at Tre Cime di Lavaredo** has great sunrise/sunset views. Easy walking. €32; or €58 pp half board. [www.rifugioauronzo.it](http://www.rifugioauronzo.it)
- **\*\*Lago di Landro** (car photo-stop). Adjacent lodging:
- **\*\*Hotel Tre Cime**: €80-90 double with breakfast, views of Tre Cime, Tel.: +39 0474 972 633 [www.hoteltrecime.com](http://www.hoteltrecime.com)  
- LP Hiking Italy p. 170
- 1. **Cortina lodging: \*Meuble Montana**, [www.cortina-hotel.com](http://www.cortina-hotel.com)  
87 € dbl room or 120 € July 24-Aug 4. In pedestrian center; private parking. After Railway Bridge, turn first left.  
Tel: 0436.862.126 or 0436.860.498 - SWD 2012 & LP HikingItaly
- 2. **Cortina lodging: \*Hotel Impero** (1938) €100 dbl room with breakfast or €125 Aug 3-10. Via Cesare Battisti, 66,  
Tel: 0436.4246 [www.hotelimperocortina.it](http://www.hotelimperocortina.it) *[\*\*Tom 2011]*
- 3. **Cortina lodging: \* Hotel Olimpia**: pick quieter north side of building; good breakfast – Tom & Carol 2013.
- 4. **Fiammes lodging: \*Hotel Fiammes** basic, €70-100 double ensuite (*matrimoniale/doppia*), Tel: +39 0436 2366, Via Fiammes 13/b [www.hotelfiammes.com](http://www.hotelfiammes.com) GPS - LP Hiking Italy p.176
- 5. **Fiammes lodging: \*International Camping Olympia** "has bungalows." Tel: 0436.5057 [www.campingolympiacortina.it](http://www.campingolympiacortina.it) GPS - LP Hiking Italy p.176
- Cortina hike: From top of **\*Mount Faloria** ski lift, easily walk back down scenic valley.
- **Reinhold Messner Mountain Museum**: 6 €, 10am - 1 pm and 2 - 6 pm. **The Museum in the Clouds**, on **Monte Rite** (2181 m) between Pieve di Cadore and Cortina d'Ampezzo. Car park at Passo Cibiana. Shuttle bus to the museum. Località Monte Rite, I - 32040 Cibiana

di Cadore (BL), Tel. +39 0435 890996. Summit 360° panorama. The theme of the museum in the old fort is "rock"; conquest of Dolomites, scientists and mountaineers. Big gallery of unique Dolomites paintings. MMM comprises **four museums**: **MMM Firmian** in **Sigmundskron Castle** near **Bozen** is heart of Mountain Museum; **MMM Ortles in Selden** is devoted to glaciers; **MMM Dolomites on Monte Rite** south of Cortina the focus is on rock and mountain climbing in the Dolomites; **MMM Juval in Juval Castle in Vinschgau** covers myths of mountains. A fifth mountain museum is due to open in 2011: **MMM Ripa in Bruneck Castle** on mountain peoples.

## Lagazuoi, Passo di Falzarego, 5 Torri, Passo di Giau, Croda da Lago

- **\*\*\*Rifugio Lagazuoi scenic lodging plus**  
**\*\*Hike SWD#23 (24)**
  - **Cable car lift** to spectacular hiking area & lodging. [www.rifugiolagazuoi.com](http://www.rifugiolagazuoi.com) online booking has priority over other bookings: **€35pp private room+€9.5pp breakfast + €3.5 hot shower**; €60pp private room half board, 4x 2-bed rooms, 2x 3-bed rooms, 1x 4-bed room; dorm saves €9-11pp).  
Tel/Fax: +39 0436.867.303, Cell. +39 340.7195.306
- **Easy, short hikes** to far-seeing vantage points:
  - **\*\*\*Lagazuoi Piccolo** has 360° panorama of main Dolomites peaks and **Cinque Torri** ("Five Towers," emblem of Cortina).
  - **\*\*Forcella Lagazuoi**. The large rock faces of **Lagazuoi** overlook Falzarego mountain pass, **Ampezzo Dolomite Nature Park**, legendary **Kingdom of Fanes**.
- Scenic hike near **\*Passo di Giau** to lake of **\*Croda da Lago** (Refuge option) reflecting **Becco di Mezzodì** & fall larch colors:

*Photo: Lago Federa and Croda da Lago G. Palmieri refuge, with Mount Becco di Mezzodì, near Passo di Giau, Cortina d'Ampezzo:*



- Rifugio Nuvolau perches above Passo di Giau, [www.nuvolau.com](http://www.nuvolau.com), [siorpaes@yahoo.com](mailto:siorpaes@yahoo.com) phone +390436867938 or +3904365178 ask for Mansueto.

## Domegge di Cadore

**\*\* Rifugio Padova** is very scenic lodging near parking, plus excellent **Hike SWD #15**, well-off of tourist track.  
Tel: 0435.72488, cell: 338.476.3400 [www.rifugiopadova.it](http://www.rifugiopadova.it)

# Slovenia

From Venice, popular Lake Bled is about 3 hours one way, located halfway around a loop of mostly autostrada and expressways. The Julian Alps are most impressive on the north side of Triglavski National Park between Kranjska Gora and Mojstrana on highway 201 in Slovenia (2.5-3 hours from Venice). Travel tips:

- **Hours** Shopping 8am-7pm weekdays, to 1pm Saturdays. Chain stores in big city centers may open Sunday morning, plus a few bakeries, all else **closed Sundays**. Banks 9am-12:30, 1:30-4 or 5pm weekdays. An ATM is called a **Bankomat**. Slovenia began using the € in 2007.
- **Phones:** Slovenia uses **tri-band GSM**. Buy €10 **SIM card** from Mobitel or others. Ignore the number within parentheses +386 (0)2 when **calling Slovenia from outside**, but **within Slovenia** you must dial it plus area code, for example: **02...**
- **Internet cafes:** €2-3/hour or free at hotels, libraries, and TIC tourist centers for 15 min. Look for **WiFi Točke**. **US Embassy:** Ljubljana (01) 200 5500, (1) 200 5555
- **TIC = Turistinfoinformacijski Centers:** free maps, lodging referrals for local rooms: **sobe** is much better value than hotels:
  - **sobe** = room with registered star ratings: \*\*\*private bath/AC, \*\*bath down hall, \*basic. Call between 9-10am on day of arrival, and most sobe or hotels will hold until 4pm without deposit. Ask for dates in the form *day/mo/year thru day of departure*.
  - **apartman** = private apartment w/bath + small kitchen
  - Guesthouses (**pension, gostisce, privatno prenociste, prenocisca**) are cozy and better value than hotels. Double rates are often quoted per person. **omladinsko prenociste** = youth hostel
  - Booking with travel agencies costs 10-30% extra. Save 20-50% on 3+night stays, vs listed rate.
  - **Planinski domovi** = mountain huts
  - Toilets: Moski/men, Zenske/women
  - **Tourist Farms:** [www.turistickemetije.si](http://www.turistickemetije.si)
- Young people speak **English**, older ones **German**.
- **Slovenian language:**
  - Two-word place names use lowercase on 2nd word.
  - *ulica* = *ul.* = street    *Trg* = Square
  - *cesta* = *c.* = road
  - *Cankarjeva ul* = poet Ivan Cankar's street = possessive case in street names.

## Gozd Martuljek

- **Gozd Martuljek\*\*** is a little town on highway 201 where Tom slept in 2011 admiring spectacular Martuljek mountain group.

## Mojstrana: gateway to Mount Triglav

- Drive through Jesenice to **highway 201** to picturesque **Mojstrana**. . [3hrs drive from **Cortina**.]
- Tourist Office: +386 (0)4 589 13 20
- **Lodging:** **Kmetija Psnak** farmhouse rooms/apartments €27-88, *apple class*=3/4, Zgornja Radovna 18, SI-4281, Mojstrana, **Tel:** +386 (0)4 589 11 52, **Mobile:** +386 (0)31 681 630

**Mount Triglav: Krma Valley** has best access (see further below).

Although neighboring **Kot valley** to **Stanicev Dom hut** is the easiest shortest non-technical route, it's least popular because Triglav isn't seen until reaching Stanicev Dom hut (1350m gain, 4:30hrs). **Vrata valley** is too steeply technical, where three long tough "secured-climbing" routes lead to Triglav summit:

1. **Pot Cez Prag** 1500m gain (rated "**Zahtevna**," meaning a demanding moderately-secured marked path). **Cez Prag** trail from **Aljazez Dom** hut to Kredarica hut, 5.30 hours: German Alpenverein built Cez Prag trail in 1800s, **technically easier** than Tominskova pot trail and a little bit longer, better for descent. From Aljazez Dom hut head up valley, pass Monument to Partisans (where Tominskova pot trail begins). After 30 minutes trail crosses over the creek to the left (straight path leads towards Luknja pass) and climbs steeply over grassy or snowy slope, reaching the first of a few rocky or cliffy steps, where first **metal pegs** are found. After 100 meters of vertical climbing path turns, goes far left, ascending over long grassy shelf, while crossing many couloirs. It turns right and begins to climb again steeply, in many sharp bends, sometimes over scree, which lies in between many rocky or cliffy steps. One of those steps is called Medvedova Skala or Bears Step, which is 10 meters high, smooth cliff, **secured by metal pegs and fixed steel rope**. **Scree slopes between cliffs are very steep and tough**. After 4 hrs from **Aljazez Dom** hut, join Tominskova pot trail above the highest lying step.
2. Tominskova Pot is very demanding and technical.
3. Bambergova Pot is very demanding and technical.

- [www.summitpost.org/triglav/150787](http://www.summitpost.org/triglav/150787)

## Mount Triglav: Vrata valley, Aljazez Dom hut



- **\*\*\* Vrata is the most beautiful valley drive in Slovenia -- very deep:** nice mixed forest of beech, spruce and fir, along crystal clear Triglavska Bistrica creek. Sides above valley rise fast, especially on right: Skrlatica group. On right is beautiful **\*\*Pericnik waterfall**. Further, on left are cliffs of Cmir (2393m) and Begunjski Vrh (2461m). Then occasional views of Skrlatica group and its wild slopes below peaks of Kukova Spica (2427m), Dovski Kriz (2542m), Oltar (2621m), Rokavi (2646m), Skrlatica (2740m) and Dolkova Spica (2591m). In front is massive Stenar (2501m). Triglav's mighty north face is **Stena**. At 12km from **Mojstrana** village, we reach:
- **\*\*Aljazez Dom hut**, an excellent road-head overnight idea (1015m elevation, Tel: +386 (0)4 589 51 00 or +386 (0)4 589 10 30, serves food, 15-29 EUR with half board). 8 rooms with 23 beds, 115 communal beds; the winter room has 4 beds & a cooker. Admire the **close grandeur of Triglav, wild Dolkova Spica and Skrlatica, high cliffs of Stenar**. Walk 0.5 km to even more spectacular view at the **"Monument to fallen Partisans"** (further upwards are steeper, technical routes).

## Mount Triglav: hike Krma to Stanicev Dom hut

**Climbing Mount Triglav** (2864 m / 9396 feet elev) or **hiking to a scenic hut** is a Slovenian must-do. **Krma Valley** is the best day or overnight hiking option to scenic alpine huts.

Along drive to trailhead at end of Krma Valley, you can optionally stay in dorm rooms at [Kovinarska koča v Krmi](#) mountain hut (tel\_\_?).

1. \*\*\* **Krma Valley #98 in 100 Hikes in the Alps.**  
**Hike 5-6 hrs/6.3miles one way** on a non-technical former packhorse hut-supply route (now done by helicopter) to the following scenic hut:  
**\*\*Dom Valentina Stanica / Stanicev Dom hut**  
12.5 miles/20k round trip, gain 4658 ft/1420 m.  
2332m elevation  
136 beds. Tel: 00+386 (0)51.614.772  
Mobile: 00+386 (0)51.345.806



2. or \*\*\* **Kredarica Hut** has superior view  
(aka **Triglav hut, Triglavski dom na Kredarici**)  
Slovenia's highest hut, 2515 m, is **spectacular!**  
Tel: +386 (0)4 531 28 64, Mobile: +386 (0)40 620 781 or +386 (0)4 203-31-81. **Reservations are highly recommended.** 140 beds, 160 bunks, €22 pp in 4-bed room or €14-18 dorm, serves food and drinks.

Hike to **Kredarica Hut** via **Konjsko Sedlo pass** from **Krma valley 6 hrs one way**, non-technical, **1650m gain**, from trailhead at 950m. "Very easy but long to Triglavski dom." Well marked with **red signs**. After forest, the rocky trail is not very fun but you have a nice valley panorama behind. After 1-1.5 hours, reach a nice plateau, then a second plateau with cows, then **Pragarca hut** at 1763m. Go forward then slightly keep right and find sign for Kredarica. Ascend forward to top of rocky section where you see in the distance a small zigzag path that leads up to Triglavski dom at 2515m. See peaks of small Triglav (left) and main Triglav (right).

**Ascent of Triglav** is non-technical, but is not recommended for those who fear heights: 1.5 hours up from Kredarica (contrary to 1-hour sign, due to waiting for descenders) and 1 hour back. No special gear is needed for the climb. (Some groups take a *via ferrata* set of gear, which might help during waits.) First, climb smaller peak and then take fascinating ridge to Triglav. Climb on rocks (class II) with fixed nails and ropes that make the climb "quite easy," although 2 or 3 places are exposed. Allow 4-5 hrs from Kredarica back to parking place.

3. Or scenic **Planika hut**, 2401m. Reservation for overnight not needed but recommended

## Lake Bled

- I walked a trail up the hill on the south side of Lake Bled for the famous views. - *100 Hikes in the Alps*: hike#99.
- **\*Bled Castle/Blejski Grad**: drive up; or hike 20 minutes steeply up from behind St Martin's Church (walk past front door, look left after first houses for *Grad* signs).
- Enjoy **walking 3.5 miles around the lake** \* for relaxing, ever changing views. Paddle or ride a boat to **Bled Island** \* (*Blejski otok*, the only natural island in Slovenia) to visit the romantic Pilgrimage Church of the Assumption of Mary, built in the 1400s, now popular for weddings.
- Walk **\*\* Vintgar Gorge** boardwalks 4km NW of Bled.

## Ljubljana / Lubiana

Capitol of Slovenia. Sights include: unique ambiance; **Joze Plecnik House**, home of the idyllic city's architect; Riverside Market; Ljubljana Castle; National Library.

## Skocjan Caves. Predjama Castle.

- **\*\* Skocjon Caves (Skocjanske jame)** are a fun walking adventure for 90 minutes (2 miles) along a raging underground river, guide required, departing **hourly 10:00-17:00** in summer. (Exit the A-1 expressway at Divaca.) Sights: Scenic entrance, The Bowls, breathtaking **Cerkvenik Bridge**, The Organ, and Paradise Cave. **Lodging:**
  - In **Divaca**, town 4km NW, 0.5km NE of train station: **Gostilna Malovec** Tel: 763-1225 on Kraska 30a, €50dbl. – LP Western Balkans.
  - **Tourist Farm lodging**, 4 apartments for 2 & 4, 55-80€: **Emil Kač**, only 3km from **Skocjon Caves**: Vremski Britof 11, 6217 Vremski Britof, contact Kmetija Jankovi, Telephone: +386 (0)5 7626.001 or +386 (0)31 335.166, Email: [info@kmetija-jankovi.com](mailto:info@kmetija-jankovi.com), [www.kmetija-jankovi.com](http://www.kmetija-jankovi.com)
- Cliffside **\* Predjama Castle** is one of Europe's most scenic. (Exit the A-1 expressway at **Postojna**.)

## Piran

*A gem of the Slovenian Adriatic – Rick Steves.* You can see most of

**\*\*Piran** in a one- hour walk: stroll along harbor-front ambiance, Tartini Square, walk up bell tower, see Maritime Museum, admire sunset glow. Park in lot by town gate, €8 per day; optionally driving in to drop off luggage, with ticket good for 6 hours.

- **\*\* Val Youth Hostel**: private rooms €25 pp breakfast, kitchen, Tel: (+386) (0)5 673-2555, address: Gregorčičeva 38a, 6330 Piran, [www.hostel-val.com](http://www.hostel-val.com)



# Croatia

- CURRENCY: **5.6 Croatian kuna (HRK) per dollar US\$**  
= **0.18 HRK/\$** - 6/14/2013
- **\*Rovinj**: is like a hilltop Venice on the coast (but is more scenic from above, in an airplane).
- Dial Croatia from Slovenia: 00 + 385 + Areacode + #, or mobile phone: 00 + 385 + 9xx.xxx.xxx. Only **within Croatia** do you dial the number (0) shown within parentheses.

## \*\*\*Plitvice Lakes National Park

- **Upper lakes (Gornja Jezera)** are most impressive.
- Park hours are 7am-8pm for ticket booths, boat, & shuttlebus, but you can stroll into the park any time without boat/bus. Most crowded 10-15:00.
- **Parking** at Entrance 1 or 2 costs **7 kuna/hour**, or free to park in hotel lot if lodging. Entrance fee 110kn for entry, boat, and shuttle bus **per day if staying offsite**, or paid just once if staying in park hotel.
- **Maps** are posted everywhere. Buying the big map is helpful (but English guidebook isn't any good). Hike **uphill** for best view. Walking briskly one could spend a minimum of an hour at each of **Lower and Upper Lakes** plus half hour **connection** by boat or **40 minutes by trail**.
- At **Big Waterfall**, hike 10 minutes up to **Sightseeing Point/Vidikovac**, up stairs, bearing right at top near shelter. Road over top of falls has more park views. Then return to Rick Steves tour.

Driving times:

- **Plitvice Lakes NP to Venice** is 4.5 hours (394 km) drive one way [option: 3 more hours to **Split**; from Venice 14 hours/1262 km round trip drive including Plitvice and Split.]
- Drive from **Plitvice** to **Ljubljana (Slovenia)** 4hrs via **Zagreb** or directly westwards twisty route with same (Google) drive time, plus 45 minutes to **Bled**. Drive 3hrs from **Mojstrana** to **Cortina**.
- **Cortina to Plitvice** is 6.5 hrs via Zagreb-Ljubljana-Lake Bled-Slovenia, or 474 km 5.5 hours via Trieste on E65.

**Plitvice lodging**: book these rooms at **\*\*[www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com)** or call in morning of travel or find **Sobe** private room signs near the park:

- **\*\*Vila Vuk** \$87 dbl, [plitvice-lakes-vila-vuk.com](http://plitvice-lakes-vila-vuk.com) contact: Tibor Vukmirovic, at Mukinje 45, Plitvice Lakes,  
Tel: + 385 (0) 53 774-030 Email: [tibor.vukmirovic@gs.t-com.hr](mailto:tibor.vukmirovic@gs.t-com.hr)
- **\*Villa Lika** \$80 dbl, Mukinje 63, just S of lakes, +385 53 774 302.
- **Pansion Breza** \$80 dbl, Plitvica Selo 21, +385 91 559 9600

**Rick Steves 2012**:

- **Villa Mukinja**, +385-98-1877-346, [www.plitvice-lakes.com](http://www.plitvice-lakes.com)
- **House Tina**, at Grabovac 175, north of park. €40-112dbl breakfast.  
Tel / Fax: 00385 47 784197 Mobile: 00385 98 9634048  
[www.housetina.com](http://www.housetina.com)
- **Knezevic Guest House** in Mukinja, 053-774-081,  
mobile 098-168-7576 [www.knezevic.hr](http://www.knezevic.hr) \$85/night double.

**For all lodging below, contact Plitvice Park (not the hotel):**

[ured.ravnateljice@np-plitvicka-jezera.hr](mailto:ured.ravnateljice@np-plitvicka-jezera.hr)

tel: +385 (0)53 751 000, or +385 (0)53 751 671

mobile: +385 (0)99 2767 204

- **\* Bungalows Korana / Camp Korana**, [double bungalow with breakfast \\$109 for 2 nights](#), 6 km before park entrance highway N° 1 coming from north, *beds are separated with linen provided* in "double bed", table, chairs. Communal bathrooms.  
Tel: +385 (0)53.751.888 ...
- In heart of National Park, 300m from Kozjak lake:
- **Hotel Bellevue**, \$100/555 HRK/night for 2, 48 doubles, cheapest but "dreary" [tel. +385 (0)53 751 700 ] - LP
- **Hotel Plitvice**, \$130/720 HRK/night for 2
- **Hotel Jezero**, \$160/880HRK/night, 229 rms, priciest.  
[ tel. +385 (0)53 751 400 ].

2013 Itinerary by Tom Dempsey

[www.photoseek.com](http://www.photoseek.com)