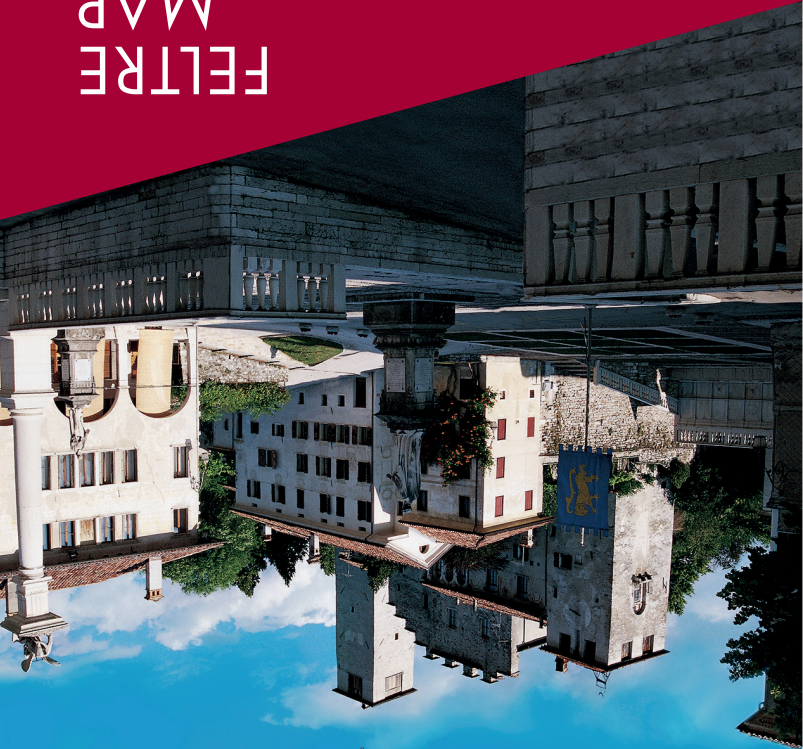


FELTRE MAP



WELCOME TO FELTRE, THE PAINTED CITY AT THE GATEWAY TO THE DOLOMITES

Enclosed between high mountains and perched on a small hill, Feltre has been the hub of important communication routes for centuries. The city has its roots in an ancient past, starting with the Reti people who merged into the Roman Empire in the 1st century B.C., when the city also became Municipium. Subsequently, the Lombards and various Venetian lordships ruled the territory until the arrival of Venetian rule in 1404. Despite the hardships that the city had to face, in particular the terrible fire set by the army of Emperor Maximilian of Habsburg, which completely destroyed it in 1509, Feltre concentrates a number of finds and monuments of considerable interest.

With its urban structure, characterised by the Cittadella that climbs the hill dominated by the Castle known as the Castle of Alboino, Feltre is also known as the 'urbs picta', the painted city, thanks to the wealth of palaces with superbly decorated façades in its historic centre. Home to the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park, the city of Feltre, with its historical vestiges from every era, the varied natural heritage of its territory, and its many and varied events, wishes its visitors a pleasant stay.

UFFICIO TURISTICO FELTRE TOURIST OFFICE

Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, 21
32032 Feltre (BL)
T +39.0439.2540

feltrino@dolomitiprealpi.it
www.dolomitiprealpi.it

Compiled by the Feltre town council department of tourism



www.visitfeltre.info

follow us on:
www.facebook.com/VisitFeltre

1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Below the Piazza del Duomo is an archaeological site occupying over 900m² that bears witness to the earliest stages in Feltre's long history. This site offers a marvellous insight into a broad swathe of the town's history from the pre-Roman settlement and the Rhaetian-Venetic culture to the Roman *municipium* of Feltre with part of a residential and business quarter on show, right up to the Mediaeval urban setting with the remains of a grand building with a courtyard and a baptistery built to a circular plan.

2 DOME

The cathedral dedicated to Saint Peter and his disciple Saint Prosdocimus rises at the foot of the citadel. This area became the religious hub and also, until the second half of the 13th Century, the political centre of gravity as the seat of the spiritual and temporal power wielded by the Bishop-Count. The body of the church was rebuilt after 1510, following the damage inflicted by the invasion of the imperial troops of the League of Cambrai, transforming the side chapels that had collapsed or were teetering into two naves. The rebuilding and extension work also involved the façade. The polygonal shape of the monumental Gothic apse is particularly impressive. As you walk down below the presbytery, you come upon the 11th Century crypt, restored in the first decades of the 20th Century, which is the oldest part of the entire building housing some fascinating remains of earlier churches. It contains some significant works by 16th Century artists from Feltre, such as the paintings *La Madonna della Misericordia* and *San Giovanni Battista* by Pietro de' Marascalchi. The 17th wooden statues of *San Pietro*, *Redentore* and *San Prosdocimo* by Francesco Terilli, adorn the altars of the naves.

3 ORATORY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

The oratory was built in 1622 on the orders of Bishop Gradenigo as an extension to the Church of Santa Croce, closed and then demolished in 1847. A masterpiece of understated elegance, passing through the Neo-Classical portico of the façade, created in 1853 by the architect from Feltre Giuseppe Bertòn, you enter the oratory where the eye is immediately drawn to the magnificent wooden coffered ceiling. Particularly impressive is the 17th Century decoration, featuring *trompe l'oeil* architecture whose floral and plant *motifs* create a continuous play of perspective.

4 BAPTISTERY

Originally a shrine dedicated to St Lawrence, the site was transformed into a baptistery probably following the abandonment of the circular baptistery located in front of the cathedral, and, in the 16th Century, it was rededicated to the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary. Evidence of its change of use is provided by the monumental monolithic baptismal font dated 1399, housed in its interior. If you take the underground passageway joining the baptistery to the former Monastery of Saint Peter, you will be able to glimpse the older traces of the church and the place in which it arose, a Paleo-Christian apse and remains of the Roman underfloor heating system.

5 CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES THE GREATER

Chiesa di San Giacomo Maggiore, a church dedicated to Saint James, son of Zebedee, was originally built at the beginning of the 15th Century on the traces of the Medieval city wall. It was then refurbished by Segusini between 1856 and 1865. All that remains of the original building is the bell tower and the beautiful stone portal à *candelabre* of Lombardic school, built around 1480. The interior, which is designed along strict Neo-Classical lines, is home to a monumental high altar, a huge 16th Century wooden crucifix and the urn containing the relics of Saint Theodora, carved in 1695 by Andrea Brustolon, known as the Michelangelo of Wood.

6 DIOCESAN MUSEUM

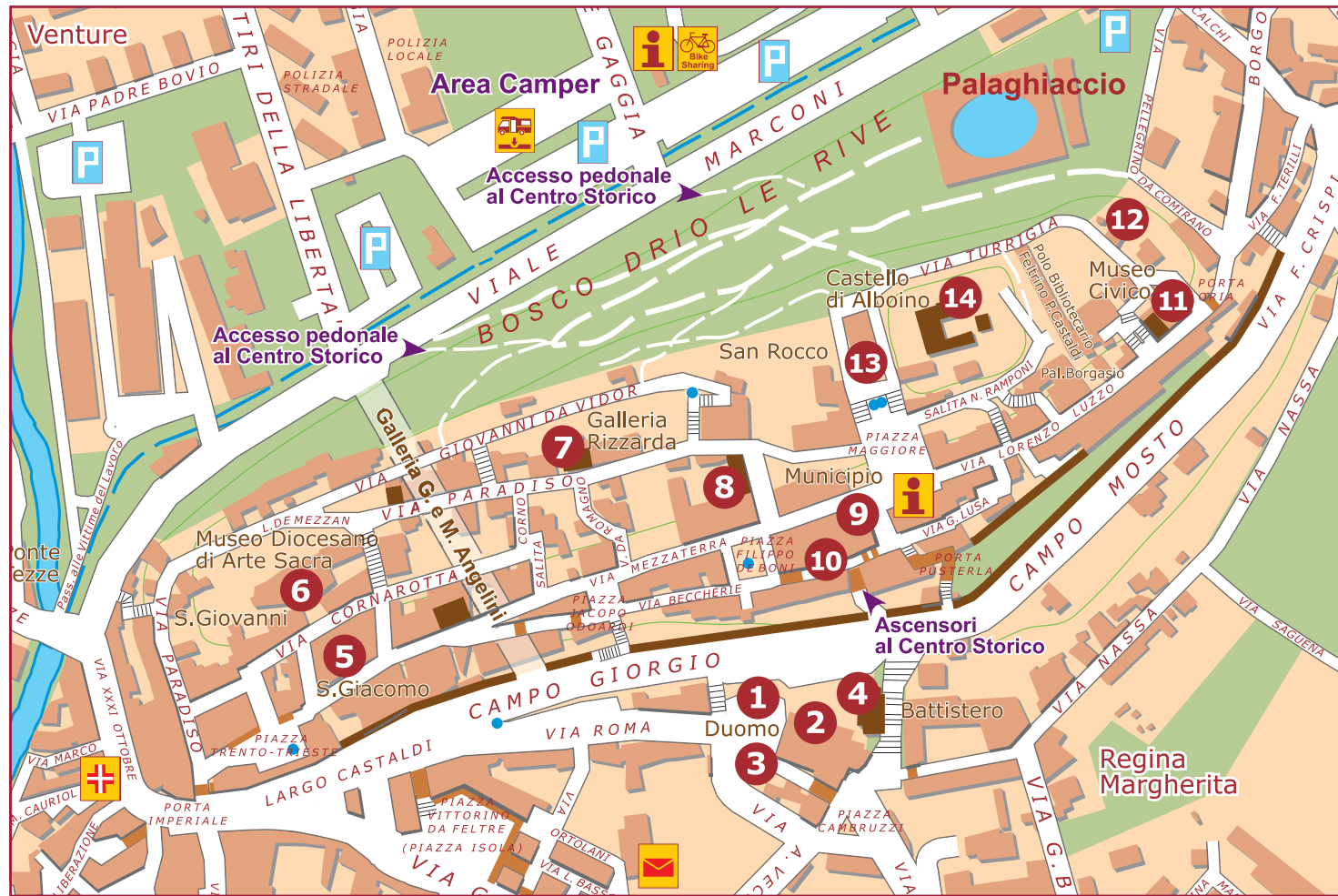
The Diocesan Museum is in the historic palace of the Bishopric of Feltre, built in the second half of the 13th Century and subsequently refurbished a number of times. The Museum is arranged according to type of exhibit and chronology, housing paintings, sculptures, priestly vestments and jewellery. It contains about ninety works of art including masterpieces from Jacopo Tintoretto, Sebastiano Ricci and Andrea Brustolon. Other particularly notable pieces are the 5th Century *Calice del Diacono Orso*, according to academics, the oldest Western communion chalice, the Longobard bas-relief entitled *Pluteo di Paderno*, two 13th Century silver astylar crosses, the reliquary bust of Saint Silvester by the Tuscan goldsmith Antonio di Salvi, the Post-Byzantine cross of 1542, a true jewel of micro-sculpture whose mere 40cm of height depict 52 scenes from the Gospel with some 500 figures and the painting by Luca Giordano, *San Gerolamo* (St Jerome).

7 "CARLO RIZZARDA" MODERN ART GALLERY

The Gallery of Modern Art contains Carlo Rizzarda's wrought iron works and the collection of paintings, sculptures, decorative works of art, furniture and Chinoiserie that Rizzarda had acquired to furnish his home in Milan. The collection consists of paintings, sculptures and ceramics by various artists including Bucci, Carrà, Casorati, Ciardi, Fattori, Messina, Meunier, Prevati, Schiele, Signorini and Wildt, and a collection of wrought iron items made by Rizzarda between 1910 and 1930. The third floor was refurbished in 2008 to house the collection of contemporary art donated by the journalist from Feltre Liana Bortolon and which includes works by Picasso, Chagall, Campigli, Severini, Sironi, Morlotti and Cassinari. This floor also contains a section dedicated to 20th Century artists from Feltre, the most famous of whom is Tancredi. Also housed here is the Carla Nasci-Ferruccio Franzoia Glass Collection, which with more than 800 pieces bears witness to a journey through the art of glassmaking that began in the 18th century, with a focus on creative Murano production.

8 TOMITANO PALACE MONTE DI PIETÀ

Palazzo Tomitano, facing the uphill street Salita Vittore Muffoni, was once home to the Monte di Pietà charitable institution. The Monte di Pietà was built in 1542 with the 1000 ducats left for that purpose by the wealthy merchant Andrea Crico, enabling some existing buildings to be bought and included in the new complex. The current building is the result of a late 16th Century refurbishment.



9 LA SENA THEATRE

This building also suffered from the dramatic events that hit Feltre in 1509-1510, making its reconstruction necessary and which proceeded in fits and starts for thirty-four years, from 1549 to 1583. It was originally built to hold meetings of the *Maggior Consiglio* (Greater Council), but by 1621 it was providing a stage for theatrical events and entertainment at Carnival time. This was a meeting place, a home to musical and theatrical entertainment to which would flock an ever more numerous and demanding audience in search of fun. The reputation of this theatre grew to such an extent that by 1802, under the Austrian government, Gianantonio Selva and Tranquillo Orsi, the former a famous architect and the latter the renowned interior decorator of La Fenice, the opera house in Venice, were invited to refurbish Teatro della Sena, and together they created a little gem of great beauty. This stage hosted the first steps in the career of the world famous Venetian playwright Carlo Goldoni.

10 PRAETORIAN PALACE - HALL OF COATS OF ARMS

This building, housing the coat of arms room and council chamber, was the private residence of the Rector of Venice. It was rebuilt in its current form after the destruction of the citadel in 1509-1510. Work on it began in 1524 and, it is believed, was concluded in 1533. The Sala degli Stemmi, which owes its name to the 45 coats of arms depicted on the walls was the room in which the Venetian governor received important guests and ambassadors. The coats of arms covering a period from the late 15th to the 17th Centuries are arranged around an image of the symbol of Venice, the Lion of St Mark. Beneath Palazzo Pretorio are the former prisons, rooms that were used as prisons until 1965, where it is possible to see the peephole doors, cell numbering and prisoner inscriptions.

11 CIVIC MUSEUM

The Civic Museum was founded in 1903 and originally housed in the main council chamber of the Palazzo della Ragione. The current seat was inaugurated in 1928 in the 16th Century building Palazzo Villabruna. The museum's particular charm is its layout as a home, filled with a marvellous collection of furniture, priceless artefacts and works of art, transporting visitors back to the refined atmosphere of a patrician home of the Feltre of bygone centuries. The 19th Century collection of Count Jacopo Dei, on permanent loan from the bishopric, contains the most valuable and important art treasures of Feltre's art gallery, particularly noteworthy being those of the 16th and 17th Centuries. Another treasure is the collection of sculptures, ranging from the painted wooden statues of a religious nature from the 16th to the 18th centuries, the ivory cross by Francesco Terilli and the model for the fountain by Valentino Panciera Besarel from Zoldo. The ground floor houses an archaeology section with exhibits from the Iron Age to the Roman period, as well as stone architectural elements from medieval and Renaissance buildings. Also housed here is the Aesculapius of Feltre, a white Greek marble statue of the god of medicine dating back to the 2nd century AD. which was found in the 1970s a few metres from the south-west corner of the Cathedral and has recently undergone a long and painstaking restoration.

12 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Its hidden position makes this Church a little-known treasure, but when you visit it you will discover its unique fascination as one of the very few buildings to have survived the destruction of the 1509-1510 war. Commissioned by the aristocratic Dal Corno family before 1404, the church was built on the traces of the Mediaeval city wall incorporating part of the ancient Torre della Rosa, charged with the defence of the Aurea gate (port'Orto). The interior is covered in amazing 15th Century frescoes attributed to the studios of talented fresco painters belonging to the Veneto area, with some identifiable Nordic influences.

13 CHURCH OF ST. ROCH AND ST. SEBASTIAN

The Church building is set between the Neo-Gothic Palazzo Guarnieri and the clock tower, in a space that was once part of the area given over to defence of the castle to which it is connected by an underground passageway leading from the sacristy. Conceived as a thanksgiving for the end of a period of repeated plagues and famines that had been afflicting the whole of Europe, construction work began on the church in 1576 and continued for a lengthy period of many years, representing a considerable drain on the public finances until it was finally consecrated in 1632. Plundered and seriously damaged during the Great War, it was reopened as a place of worship in 1923. The interior houses a magnificent painted wooden crucifix by the sculptor from Feltre Francesco Terilli.

14 ALBOINO CASTLE

The vast castle towers above Piazza Maggiore and is the emblem of the town. Legend has it that it is named after Alboin, the 6th Century King of the Lombards during whose reign Feltre was destroyed by barbarians several times and immediately rebuilt. However, archaeological studies date the castle keep as 11th Century. In order to perform its defensive function, the castle boasted four square towers, only one of which, called by locals *el Campanon*, has been preserved. On this tower there once loomed a massive Lion of St Mark. The current clock tower was the original entrance. The exterior décor was created by Lorenzo Luzzo in 1518. The interior spaces contain 16th Century frescoes.

15 SANCTUARY SS.MM. VITTORE AND CORONA (see the complete map) --->

On a rocky spur of Monte Miesna, three kilometres from the town of Feltre, lies the delightful Sanctuary of San Vittore that guards the relics of the Middle Eastern saints Victor and Corona, patron saints of the diocese. Building work on the sanctuary began in the 12th Century incorporating the older shrine set up in 1096, and it is one of the most important Romanesque buildings in Veneto. Passing through the 15th Century cloister, adorned with frescoes in the 17th Century, you reach the interior, its Greek cross layout dominated by four central pillars supporting a cupola whose delightful frescoes depict the saints venerated by the local people and scenes from the lives of the martyrs. The décor is completed with priceless works of sculpture. The view from the churchyard takes in a natural amphitheatre of rare beauty from the centre of which springs the town of Feltre.

- 1- Archeologic site
- 2- Dome
- 3- Oratory of the annunciation
- 4- Baptistery
- 5- Church of saint James the Greater
- 6- Diocesan museum
- 7- "Carlo Rizzarda" Modern Art Gallery
- 8- Tomitano palace monte di piet 
- 9- La Sena Theatre
- 10- Praetorian Palace - Hall of Coats of Arms
- 11- Civic Museum
- 12- Holy Trinity Church
- 13- Church of St. Roch and St. Sebastian
- 14- Alboino Castle
- 15- Sanctuary ss.mm. Vittore and Corona

LEGENDA

-  Tourist information point
-  Bike-share
-  Belluno Dolomites National Park
-  Car parks
-  Camper park
-  Lift
-  Hospital
-  Fire station
-  Railway station
-  Post office
-  Chemist's shop

