

## COLVERA VALLEY

### Art and nature along the Colvera river



The **Colvera Valley**, land of great artisans and of pure natural beauty, is overtopped by the **Raut mountain's** large peak, and is extended to Maniago's plain along the Colvera river, between woods and rock faces.

In this area you can see Frisanco and Poffabro, beautiful villages of medieval origins, but also Casasola, Colvere, Pian delle Merie and Valdestali, small typical villages.

The typical architecture, composed by rural sandstone buildings with wood balconies developed very close each other to take advantage of the steep slope, represents the most important landscape of the valley, improved by the wise renovation made after the dreadful earthquake in 1976.

**Frisanco** is the Colvera Valley's county town and its old town is full of buildings developed following the typical architecture rules, called "Spontaneous architecture". In 2003 this village won for its beauty an important Italian prize, called "Villaggio d'Italia Airone".

**Poffabro** is the gem of the valley and in 2002 was written in the most beautiful Italian villages list. Over the years, with its simple beauty, made of sandstone and carved wood, captured the attention of various artists.

Even the smallest villages present interesting artistic points, for example **Pian delle Merie**, very close to Poffabro, where you can visit the neoclassic Sanctuary in honor of Our Lady of health.

It's important to visit also **Maniago**, the town famous all over the world for its cutlery. The history of Maniago blacksmiths and cutlery artisans starts in the middle of 1400, when along the Colvera river rose the firsts artisanal laboratories.



In the hearth of the city you can see Piazza Italia, one of the biggest square in Friuli, where you can admire the main monuments, as the Dome in honor of Saint Mauro, the Attimis lodge and the Attimis Palace. Along the road from Maniago to Frisanco you can see also the ruins of the Big Castle.

Not so far from Maniago, you can visit another gem of this area, **Andreis**, "museum" of the mountain culture, a village lays down on a green terrace protected by the peaks of Raut, Resettum and Fara mountains, that is famous for the ethnographic museum and for the recovering centre for birds, an organization belonging to the "Parco Naturale delle Dolomiti Friulane".

The Colvera Valley is the ideal destination for fascinating journeys in nature, is an artistic place thanks to the awesome examples of typical handiworks as wood products, wicker baskets and velvet slippers, and is a interesting gastronomic area thanks to the various culinary proposals as Frico, a way of cooking cheese, or Muset con la brovada, a spiked pork sausage with acid turnips.

For more information about this area, you can visit these web sites:

- [www.parcodolomitifriulane.it](http://www.parcodolomitifriulane.it)
- [www.borghitalia.it/html/borgo\\_it.php?codice\\_borgo=534](http://www.borghitalia.it/html/borgo_it.php?codice_borgo=534)
- [www.comune.maniago.pn.it](http://www.comune.maniago.pn.it)