Graffiti in the Val d’Asa
In a very deep and rough gorge, which begins at the Vezzena plain and leads up to the Valvastico valley, signs of primitive tribes can still be seen. Within this enigmatic world, the archaeologist Ausilio Priuli, who has dedicated his life to the study of ancient customs, has discovered hundreds of signs carved into the soft rock. These signs, which belong to different cultures and periods, tell us a lot about the prehistoric world. The first inhabitants left us more than ten thousand engravings which testify to ancient ceremonies. Prehistoric beings seem to have been fascinated by the concept of fertility, which they represented on the walls of their dwellings. They carvedograms, engravings and drawings of gods, bulbs, fishes, grids, and spirals, which are thought to have magical and protective properties. According to research carried out by the archaeologist Ausilio Priuli, newer signs which testify to the change of religious rites and cults have been added over the centuries to the oldest graffiti, which goes back to 5,000-4,000 BC. There are also references to possible star and cosmological myths, and the viewer’s fantasy can play with the signs that hint at machines and flying beings. Some people consider the signs stories written by aliens about aliens who landed on our planet aboard giant space crafts.

Ecomuseum “del Goberlele”
Getting to know the archaeology of the Asigau Plateau with its history and its traditions is possible at the Ecomuseum, which is a starting point for excursions, music and theatre events and laboratories for adults and young people. It is an old stable, from which we can start our journey along real or imaginary tracks on the trails of our ancestors. Here there are references to elabors, witches and the “sibaldes”, elf-like magical creatures that have always been living around the Sette Comuni (the seven villages on the plateau) who play jokes on the inhabitants, or do them favours or tease them. An absent-minded farmer still may find his draught horse’s tail plaited as though it was the hair of a princess out of a fairy tale. And this is only one of many stories that you might hear.

The Altar Knot
At the eastern border of the Asigau Plateau, in the village of Rotzo, the “altar knot” is executed on the rock of the Belvedere. The knot is an untouched rock, cut and shaped by the wind and the water and juts out over the Valdastico valley. Here an enormous natural stone block overlooks the precipice, as though it was hanging on the edge of the world. The knot is an enormous natural stone block, as though it was hanging on the edge of the world. It is a small village on top of the hills and surrounded by wild and unspoilt nature. The main aim of the creation of this park was to preserve the natural environment, but also to enrich the landscape and to offer an opportunity to artists and visitors. The park “del Sojo” is a rocky foothill where local history is intertwined with mysteries and fantasy creatures over the centuries. Witches are believed to have gathered here, but also men, the former bustling, the latter frightened and in search of shelter, they ran amid meadows, along the lush forests with hornbeams, downy oaks and cornels. But if the sculptures are the modern vision of an ancient world that one wants to be increased in order for it not to fall into oblivion, there are still references to fantasy tradition. The caves of the “sibaldes”, the water praised by this valley, thus they worshipped it and used it to special magical and propitiatory rites. According to research carried out by the archaeologist Ausilio Priuli, newer signs which testify to the change of religious rites and cults have been added over the centuries to the oldest graffiti, which goes back to 5,000-4,000 BC. There are also references to possible star and cosmological myths, and the viewer’s fantasy can play with the signs that hint at machines and flying beings. Some people consider the signs stories written by aliens about aliens who landed on our planet aboard giant space crafts.

Ecomuseum “del Ghertele”
In this district there exists an underground track called “dei ventiducts” (ventiducts), which is interesting both for its artistic and historical value. It is a network of galleries, which were used only a few dec- ades ago by the inhabitants, who were recently turned into a long corridor in the main passages. The park “del Sojo” is a rocky foothill where local history is intertwined with mysteries and fantasy creatures over the centuries. Witches are believed to have gathered here, but also men, the former bustling, the latter frightened and in search of shelter, they ran amid meadows, along the lush forests with hornbeams, downy oaks and cornels. But if the sculptures are the modern vision of an ancient world that one wants to be increased in order for it not to fall into oblivion, there are still references to fantasy tradition. The caves of the “sibaldes”, the water praised by this valley, thus they worshipped it and used it to special magical and propitiatory rites. According to research carried out by the archaeologist Ausilio Priuli, newer signs which testify to the change of religious rites and cults have been added over the centuries to the oldest graffiti, which goes back to 5,000-4,000 BC. There are also references to possible star and cosmological myths, and the viewer’s fantasy can play with the signs that hint at machines and flying beings. Some people consider the signs stories written by aliens about aliens who landed on our planet aboard giant space crafts.

Vicenza - Villa Valmarana ai Nani
In Vicenza a visitor cannot miss a visit to the artistic and famous villa Valmarana, the construction of which started 1669, and which was frescoed by Tiepolo and his son in 1757. It is said that once a rich and powerful prince had a gloomy castle built here, surrounded by high walls, because he did not want his only daughter Jana, a disregarded midget, to suffer seeing more handicapped people. Thus, all the servants that surrounded her were killed. However, many youngsters were attracted by the prince’s wealth and the girl’s beautiful face and came to ask for her hand in marriage, but as soon as they discovered her deformity, they found any pretext to go away. One day the poor girl fell hopelessly in love with one of the many suitors, who, like all the others before, had walked away upon seeing her. She went to the balcony that overlooked the road and started to call the young man and lean over so much, she fell down on the road and died. It is said that the place was inhabited by prehistor- ric people during the Palaeolithic period and even long before, with traces of the Neanderthal man. The cave was often used as shelter during wars and enemy raids by the people of Messano. The ‘Prisons’ are a fascinating and mysterious fortress dug into the rock inside a private property, a ‘palace’ made of staircases, chambers, rooms, lodges and windows, some of which are re- inforced by terracotta structures. A place inside the rock which is unique for the grandeur of its structuring. The visit starts from the square in front of the church of Messano and includes a pleasant walk among evidence of human life on the Berici hills in different periods of history.
1. Asiago
The gnome village

The wood called “Boschetto del Pisanello” is a highly imaginative square metre park of the Hotel da Barba. On the road towards Asiago, in the district of Canove, turn right at the dairies. Guided visits can be reached along two routes that start at the centre of Roana and at the nearby district of Canove. To access the place it is necessary to be accompanied by a guide.

Info: www.archeidos.it; info@villaggiodeglignomi.it, tel. 0444 874589, website: www.montagnaspaccata.com.

2. Roana
Ecomuseum “del Gberiele”

The museum can be found in the district of Gberiele. The association Associazione Archeidos and the Roano Town Council offer tourist and education activities and theme holidays.

Info: Associazione Archeidos, tel. 0424 691100, website: www.archeidos.it; info@villaggiodeglignomi.it, tel. 0444/555036, website: www.costozza-villavicenza.it.

3. Rotzo
The “Altar Knotto”

Shortly after reaching the main square in Rotzo, coming from Asiago, a road runs up towards the mountains Campolongo and Verena. At a bend called “curva del Telaio” take the path nr. 882 in the woods westwards.

Info: www.magicovenete.it

4. Rubbio
The painted and the inhabited quarry

From either Bassano del Grappa or Marastica, in the direction of Asiago, you can reach the district of Rubbio, that lies at about 1,000 metres altitude. Shortly before the village take the road on the right that leads to the mountain Monte Caína. In order not to get lost, follow a repeater, a small garage and a small path downwards.

Info: tel. 3282143191, e-mail: info@rubbio.com, website: www.cavedirubbio.com.

5. Asiago
The gnome village

The wood called “Boschetto del Pisanello” is a highly imaginative square metre park of the Hotel da Barba. On the road towards Asiago, in the district of Canove, turn right at the dairies. Guided visits can be reached along two routes that start at the centre of Roana and at the nearby district of Canove. To access the place it is necessary to be accompanied by a guide.

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6. Lusiana
Park “del Sojo”

The park can be freely visited all year. A guided tour can be booked one week in advance.

Info: tel. 0443 3722321, e-mail: info@montagnaspaccata.com, website: www.montagnaspaccata.com.

7. Località Spaccata
The split mountain

After passing Valdagno and the signpost for San Quirico turn left before the tunnel. The visit of the place can include excursions, shows and animation.

Info: tel. 340 3722321, e-mail: info@montagnaspaccata.com, website: www.montagnaspaccata.com.

8. Montorso Vicentino
Luigi da Porto's ghost

Montorso Vicentino is located 16 km from Vicenza. Once you have reached the centre of Montebello go on about 5 km towards Arzignano. In the summer there are many cultural initiatives. Visits upon reservation only.

Info: tel. 0444 495402 technical office, e-mail: info@comune.montorsovicentino.VE.it, website: www.comune.montorsovicentino.VE.it.

9. Lumignano
The Hermitage of San Cassiano

It is located on the road Riviera Berica in the village of Longare. The speleology club “Protoel” is open to the public on every first Sunday of the month. Guided visits can be booked in other days.

Info: e-mail: caporetspoldinet.it, tel. 0444 932771 (Mr Luca Dal Molin) and 0444 790204 (Ms Samuela Dal Masoli), e-mail: carriellawdincom, website: www.comune.montorsovicentino.VE.it.

10. Orgiano
The real Betrothed

Orgiano is located 32 km from Vicenza, south of the Berici Hills. Driving along the provincial road up to Longare, you arrive at the crossroads towards Orgiano. Individual visits of the villa: Sundays and holidays from 15 March to 1 November, 15-19; groups: all year upon telephone booking.


11. Costozza
Caves and ventiducts


Info: Consorzio Pro Loco Colli Berici, tel. 0444 638188, e-mail: consorzio@costozza.com, website: www.comune.montorsovicentino.VE.it.

12. Mossano
The cave of San Bernardino and the Prisons

They are located along the road Riviera Berica about 30 km from Vicenza. To access the places and the prisons a guide is needed and can be booked at 3472914152 (Giorgio Vacherelli). e-mail: procurator@lalic.com.

Info: Consorzio Colli Berici, tel. 0444 638188 (Monterosso), e-mail: consorzio@colliberici.it, website: www.comune.montorsovicentino.VE.it.

13. Vicenza
Villa Valmarana ai Nani

It lies on the southern side of the Monte Berico hill. Open all year: from March to the 6 November 10-12 and 15-18 (closed on Mondays); from 8 November to 10 March Saturdays and Sundays only, 10-12 and 14-16.30. Visits in other times upon reservation.

Info: tel. 0444 321803, e-mail valmarana@villavalmarana.com, website: www.villavalmarana.com.

Visit the Italian Heritage Trail for your free guidebook (www.italianheritagetrail.com)