



Tarcento: itineraries and excursions

Geographically speaking, the town is located in an area of varied and contrasting landscapes: to the north are the Julian Alpine foothills, imposing limestone bastions along the horizon, defending the town from cold northern winds; to the south is the Friulian high plain, formed by the alluvial deposits of the great watercourses, including the River Torre; to the east are the Colli Orientali (or Eastern Hills), gently rolling Eocene reliefs; to the west is the morainic amphitheatre of the River Tagliamento, with its surrounding hills formed after the last Ice Age.

Such varied surroundings make this an irresistible place to discover and rediscover by means of walks and excursions, visits to historic sites and outings in the countryside. These are possible all year round in Tarcento thanks to its particularly mild climate.

Tarcento has earned itself the nickname "Perla del Friuli" (literally "Pearl of Friuli") because of its spectacular geographic location, as well as its more recent title of "Città dell'acqua, città del fuoco" ("Town of water, town of fire") to commemorate the town's two key features:

- ✓ the first is a natural feature, linked to the River Torre, the most important watercourse, and its numerous tributaries;
- ✓ the other is a traditional feature, linked to epiphany fire and the "Festival dei Cuori" ("Festival of Hearts"), two important events for the town which respectively raise its status to the capital of the Friulian Epiphany celebrations and of international folklore.

A popular destination in the past due to its pleasant surroundings, beloved by many illustrious figures who stayed or lived here, Tarcento has succeeded in preserving the beauty of its natural and historic treasures.

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"TAI RONCS DAL SORELI" TRAIL

Technical details	
Starting point	Tarcento, fork between Via del Castello and Via Riviera
Total distance	5 km
Walking time	2 hours
Ascent	150 m
Trail use	footpath and mountain bike trail
Level of difficulty	easy
Recommended time of year	autumn, winter, spring
Parking	Piazza Frangipane
Equipment	trainers
Refreshments	Food served at "Da Pulzut" tavern in Bulfons, Belvedere restaurant in Coja

History and nature	
Landscape	hilly, with cultivated areas and chestnut groves
Flora	manmade environments (walls and vineyards), mesophilous woodland
Fauna	mammals (roe deer, badgers) and birds
Geology	Eocene flysch
Panorama	views over Tarcento and the morainic hills
History	presence of historic villas and gardens, rural hamlets, castles

DESCRIPTION - The proposed trail is one of the most beautiful in the Tarcento basin. As well as offering a stunning view over the Friulian plain, it also takes you through a number of spots which feature some very interesting nature.

To get to the starting point, it is best to park your car in the parking area outside Palazzo Frangipane, then walk along the street of the same name, past Villa Angeli and Villa Pontoni with their historic gardens. Continue down Via del Castello until you reach the fork with Via Riviera.

Now follow this street, which slopes gently upwards. Along this initial stretch of the trail, flanked by houses, you may notice the mulberry bushes, once used to consolidate the land and prevent landslides.



Leaving the paved road behind us, we now enter a zone cultivated with vines and fruit trees, where we can see the stone water drainage works: small channels, ditches and collection tanks, built many years ago by the inhabitants of Coia due to the fact that this zone is packed with springs and small surface watercourses. It is well worth stopping for a moment to admire the view that opens out beneath us over the centre of the Tarcento, with the morainic amphitheatre of the River Tagliamento in the background, towards the west. We return once more to the paved road which takes us quickly up to Zucchia, where we once again resume the trail. Climbing up towards Coja, we enter a chestnut wood. After a little while, we come across a small stream on our left and, leaving the trail for a moment, we can walk a short distance down to its banks.

We now resume our walk through the wood, until we reach Coja cemetery. After climbing around 100 steps up the aqueduct we come to the top of the hill, from where we can enjoy a breath-taking view and where the upper castle once stood. The site of the lower castle (Cjiscjelat) is around ten minutes away from here, via the historic "Belvedere" inn.

After leaving the cemetery and the suburbs of Coia behind us, the path slopes more steeply down through the mixed wood, home to some wonderful beech trees. Along the route we can see the traces of a bird snare, traditionally used to trap birds. After arriving at the bottom of the valley, we cross two small streams and continue on our way, until coming to the "Pulzut" tavern where we can enjoy some refreshments before continuing on our way.



After resuming our walk, we continue down to what was the workers' village of Bulfons, which has now been transformed into a normal residential zone. Here we can make a detour to the famous textile waste processing plant and the bridge over the Torre. Continuing to the right, we follow a stretch of path through a "tunnel" of mulberries and bushes, once known as "il troi dai todescs", until emerging at the beautiful hamlet of Intric. From here we continue through a natural environment, until returning to the starting point.

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CROSIS WATERFALL TRAIL

Technical data	
Starting point	Zomeais, square in front of the church (on Via Zimor)
Total distance	"A" 1 Km
Walking time	45 min
Ascent	50 m
Trail use	footpath
Level of difficulty	easy
Recommended time of year	all year round
Detours	climb up to Malemaseria (30 min)
Parking	Zomeais, near the church
Equipment	walking boots and socks, long trousers
Refreshments	"La Scjalute" bar in Zomeais

History and nature	
Landscape	hilly / mountainous: alternating cultivated and unspoilt zones
Flora	limestone rocks and damp ravines, endemic species, rare ferns
Fauna	reptiles, amphibians, moths and beetles
Geology	contact between Eocene flysch and Cretaceous limestone, travertine
Panorama	view over the Tarcento hills and the Torre valley
History	former millstone quarry, industrial archaeology

DESCRIPTION - The Crosis waterfall trail winds its way along the southern slopes of Monte Stella. This trail is well known because it offers the opportunity to admire the imposing waterfalls of the River Torre, created as a result of the construction of the hydroelectric plant, with the Crosis dam being the most imposing feature.

The path starts near the last houses on the northern edge of Zomeais, in Via Zimor. Starting from the car park near the



church at the start of the trail, we need to follow a section of paved road before turning left. Shortly

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afterwards, we find ourselves looking at a board that maps out the entire trail, indicating some of its most interesting points.

We reach one of these just a few metres further on in the form of an old ruin, probably a mill, a hypothesis that is confirmed by the fact that a small stream runs nearby. Continuing along the first part of the trail, which is fairly level, we can also note some old stone walls and south-facing orchards. As regards this part of the path, it is worth mentioning a former stone quarry where the conglomerate used for millstones was quarried.

At this point, the path descends into a damp, shady ravine where we can see a few small channels that allow the water to flow away. A little further one, we cross a small stream, where the path forks into trail "B" on the left, which climbs up to Malemaseria. However, continuing to the right, through a wood dense with hop hornbeams and flowering ash trees, we reach another fork a few minutes later. The itinerary branches off along a fairly level stretch which follows the course of the River Torre from above, continuing for around one kilometre, or another stretch which slopes steeply downwards to the bed of the river and leads to the outskirts of Crosis, opposite the waterfalls, preferably to be followed on the return journey.

Continuing along the upper stretch, we reach a point which offers a view over the Tarcento area and the imposing waterfalls.

Turning back until the fork, we then follow the stretch that descends down to the bed of the Torre, passing through a very attractive rocky landscape. After having overcome a couple of difficult spots thanks to two metal ladders, we leave the riverbed behind us and climb up through a fir plantation to the houses in Micco. From here we once again take the paved road back to the starting point.

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MONTE STELLA TRAIL

Technical data	
Starting point	Stella, hamlet of Michs, total distance: 2.5 km
Walking time	2 hours
Ascent	200 m
Trail use	footpath
Level of difficulty	medium, landscape: mountainous karst
Recommended time of year	spring and autumn
Parking	near the church in Stella
Equipment	walking boots, water bottle
Refreshments	none

History and nature	
Flora	arid rocky areas, limestone meadows, lots of endemic species
Fauna	mammals, moths
Geology	superficial karst phenomena
Panorama	view over the Friulian high plain, the Julian Alpine foothills and Tarcento
History	rural environments and constructions, water wells

DESCRIPTION - As well as standing out for its beautiful natural landscape, the "Monte Stella" trail is characterised by karst cliffs packed with rare plants, and a wonderful view overlooking the basic of the Torre valleys and extending out to the Adriatic and, to the West, the Euganean Hills. It is said that the sky over Monte Stella is bluer and clearer than the sky anywhere else in Friuli. Parking is available in the square outside the church.



From here, follow the road in the direction of Michs. After passing through the hamlet, the actual trail begins at the bend in the road. The first stretch passes through a dense patch of hazelnut trees, where you can still spot rows of fruit and cherry trees, bearing witness to the historic use of the land: cultivated zones alternate with meadows. In fact, until a few decades ago, the mountain was used

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as pastureland. After completing this short initial stretch, the wood opens out into a rocky environment dominated by grasses and low bushes and, above all, by a beautiful view.

We now climb a steep slope, which presents a few difficulties due to the presence of sharp rocks. As we continue up the ridge of the mountain, below us we can see the River Torre as it reaches the Crocis dam. Opposite us, the huge mass of Monte Bernadia offers an unexpected view over the green meadows of Useunt. Climbing even higher, we at last reach the mountain plateau. To the west, we can spot the green roof of the bell tower in Stella, without doubt one of the most important bell towers in the region. We now continue straight east, leaving the rocky pastures behind us and immersing ourselves in a karst environment dominated by sinkholes. The peak of the mountain is marked by a stone placed there by the Istituto Geografico Militare.

This is an important trigonometric reference point, visible from the Friulian plain. Continuing into the wood, we now head north, to reach the second highest peak of the mountain. Before we get there, we descend into a beautiful meadow-lined basin, at the centre of which is a hay loft. The base of the construction is made from stones recovered from the meadow, making it easier to cut the grass. The structure itself is made from wood, and the walls are made from a wattle of hazelnuts and other local bushes. The current roof is made from sheet metal, but it was probably thatched originally. Going back into the wood again, we now descend more steeply until we come to a fork, taking the right turning and then keeping to the left until we reach the hamlet of Boreaniz, the highest on Monte Stella.

From here we make our way along a path which was formerly much used by the local inhabitants to reach the lower settlement: the hamlet of Pobra, where we find ourselves back on a paved road and soon back at our starting point. From Boreaniz, it is possible to make an interesting detour to the Stella chasm, a spectacular karst pit which forms the most striking natural phenomenon in the area. However, the ascent up to the chasm is rather difficult and should only be attempted when accompanied by a local guide, because the site is very difficult to find.

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BERNADIA TRAIL

Technical data	
Starting point	Bernadia blockhouse
Total distance	"C" 2 km
Walking time	1 hour and 30 min
Ascent	100 m
Trail use	footpath
Level of difficulty	easy
Recommended time of year	spring, summer
Parking	square outside Bernadia blockhouse
Equipment	walking boots and water bottle
Refreshments	Frasca Cloz, Tinat in Sedilis

History and nature	
Landscape	mountainous karst, with mixed thermophilous woods and rocky pastures
Flora	sinkhole flora, endemic species
Fauna	mammals, birds, beetles and other invertebrates
Geology	considerable superficial and underground karst phenomena
Panorama	view over the entire plain, from the Bay of Trieste to the Veneto
History	military works, traces of ancient rural settlements

DESCRIPTION - This trail is immersed in the green countryside, amidst scented cyclamens and majestic beech trees, surrounded by limestone rocks. Ten minutes after starting the walk, we can take a detour into the wood on the right to see some large karst pits and sinkholes (danger!).

The undergrowth is varied and very interesting, especially in the spring. An endemic plant grows here in the summer: *Aconitum angustifolium*. From the battery we make our way down the cart track until reaching the viewpoint at the top of the Dolina slope, a rocky ridge that overlooks Ramandolo in Nimis. We can stop here for a break and admire the breath-taking view, which extends across the entire plain until reaching the Adriatic Sea. On sunny days, with a breeze coming up from the plain, this is the perfect



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spot for hang gliding and paragliding. The path continues along the cart track, until reaching the Bernadia carriage road (the destination for stretch "A" from Sedilis).

From here we can return to Useunt in around half an hour by following the paved road. Otherwise, we turn left just ahead, following a trail that takes us back to the blockhouse, completing the circular walk. At the start of this final stretch we can observe lots of stone ruins: this was probably a summer village used by shepherds. Further on, a large dry stone wall provides evidence of historic work to clear and cultivate these impervious lands, now dominated by unspoilt woodland and nature.

WALK ALONG THE RIVER TORRE

The destination or starting point of the attractive footpath along the right-hand bank of the River Torre is the new footbridge, which connects the Ceschia centre to Via dei Mulini. Looking north from the footbridge we can enjoy a glimpse of the Julian Alpine foothills, where the river has its source. Below the footbridge, we can see the artificial waterfall over the "Armellini" dam, once a water collection point for the millstream along the right bank, which supplied various mills.

A few hundred metres later, we come to Tarcento bridge, one of the oldest bridges over the watercourse. The path passes under the bridge, where two artificial dikes create attractive water effects. Continuing downstream, we reach the sports centre.

On the opposite bank we can admire some beautiful residential buildings, especially the Villa della Rose and Villa Caterina. The walk continues along a wide, paved stretch for another three hundred metres, after which it becomes a nature walk past willow and alders until coming to the Mina dam, where water was captured for the Molinis millstream in the past. If we want to complete the circular walk, we can make our way back up the cart track (Via Mulin Vecchio) to Borgobello and then, keeping to the right, we arrive back at the centre. The walk along the Torre is a relaxing route with benches and night-time lighting which make it very pleasant and romantic, especially on warm summer evenings, relieved by the descent of cool air from the mountain down to the river. This breeze is known as the "ajarin di Cròsis" (Cròsis breeze).

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CHESTNUT TRAIL

Blanketed by age-old chestnut trees, the Coia wood is the central point of this itinerary which we recommend walking during chestnut season, starting from and returning to the church in Coia, where you can join up with the "Tai roncs dal soreli" trail.

Follow the paved road in the direction of Sammardenchia, with views over Billerio and the Osoppo plain. Half a kilometre later, take the forest road and continue through the wood towards Coia di Là, until reaching the rural settlements of Via degli Usignoli.

From here, follow the beautiful path through the chestnut woods, after which this walk has been named.

THE ZIMOR VALLEY

The hamlet of Gaspar, which developed around the ancient mill on the River Zimor, is the starting point and destination of this circular walk.

On the way out, take the old road that connected Sammardenchia to the valley bottom.

After around 1 kilometre you will come to the houses in the hamlet of Villa and then the hamlet of Boscut, from where you should climb up for another 700 metres until coming to the hamlet of Soret.

Along this stretch of the path, you can admire a sort of open air museum alongside the road, featuring ancient stone items and equipment used in traditional work, collected by Attilio Vidoni.

A beautiful level forest road leads out from the hamlet of Soret, extending into the mixed deciduous wood for over 1.5 km. A path then descends down to the River Zimor, crossing numerous streams and pine plantations.

Once you have reached the paved road at the bottom of the valley, return to the starting point along the right bank of the watercourse.

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