



## TRIESTE ITALY

**T**rieste has been a vital port on the Adriatic for 2,000 years. As any city which has been witness to so

much history, Trieste has benefited from periods of great prosperity and endured times of great challenge. The city which visitors enjoy today thrives in a time of peace and renewal.

The dignified architecture of the old Austrian Habsburg Dynasty combines with a modern university and a scientific community on the cutting edge of research and discovery. Italian, Slovenian, Serb, Croat, Hungarian, Dalmatian, German, Istrian, and Greeks, all combine to make Trieste rich in culture and cuisine. The city serves as the gateway to the long famous Friuli wine region yet Trieste is well known for coffee and cafés.

Trieste has welcomed and been transformed by emperors, archdukes and kings. The city has nourished the genius of Irish writers, suffered the scourge of barbaric conquest and dictatorial occupation, and stood on the precipice of ideological slavery. It has been rescued by presidents and prime ministers and brought into the light of freedom. This city has witnessed the clash of titans and has been swept up in the tumultuous ambition of tyrants. Yet Trieste survives.

As the young James Joyce did for years, and as generations before and after have done daily, you too should take the time to sip a cup of coffee in one of Trieste's many fine cafés. Consider the words of her adopted son when you think of this wonderful city and her people; "My heart is quite calm now. I will go back."



### HISTORY

Trieste has a long and at times turbulent history. Ancient tribes known as the Histri and the Veneti inhabited the area for thousands of years BC. By the 2nd century BC a small city had risen and the Romans called it Tergeste. Julius Caesar bestowed colonial status upon Tergeste in 51 BC. Under the protective cloak of "Pax Romana" the port city grew and prospered.

With the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the late 400s AD, Trieste soon came under the rule of the invading Germanic Ostrogoths. The Byzantine Greeks of the Eastern Roman Empire then took Trieste only to be followed by the Germanic Lombards in the late 700s. The city was virtually swept up in the violence and turmoil of the barbarian invasion and conquest.

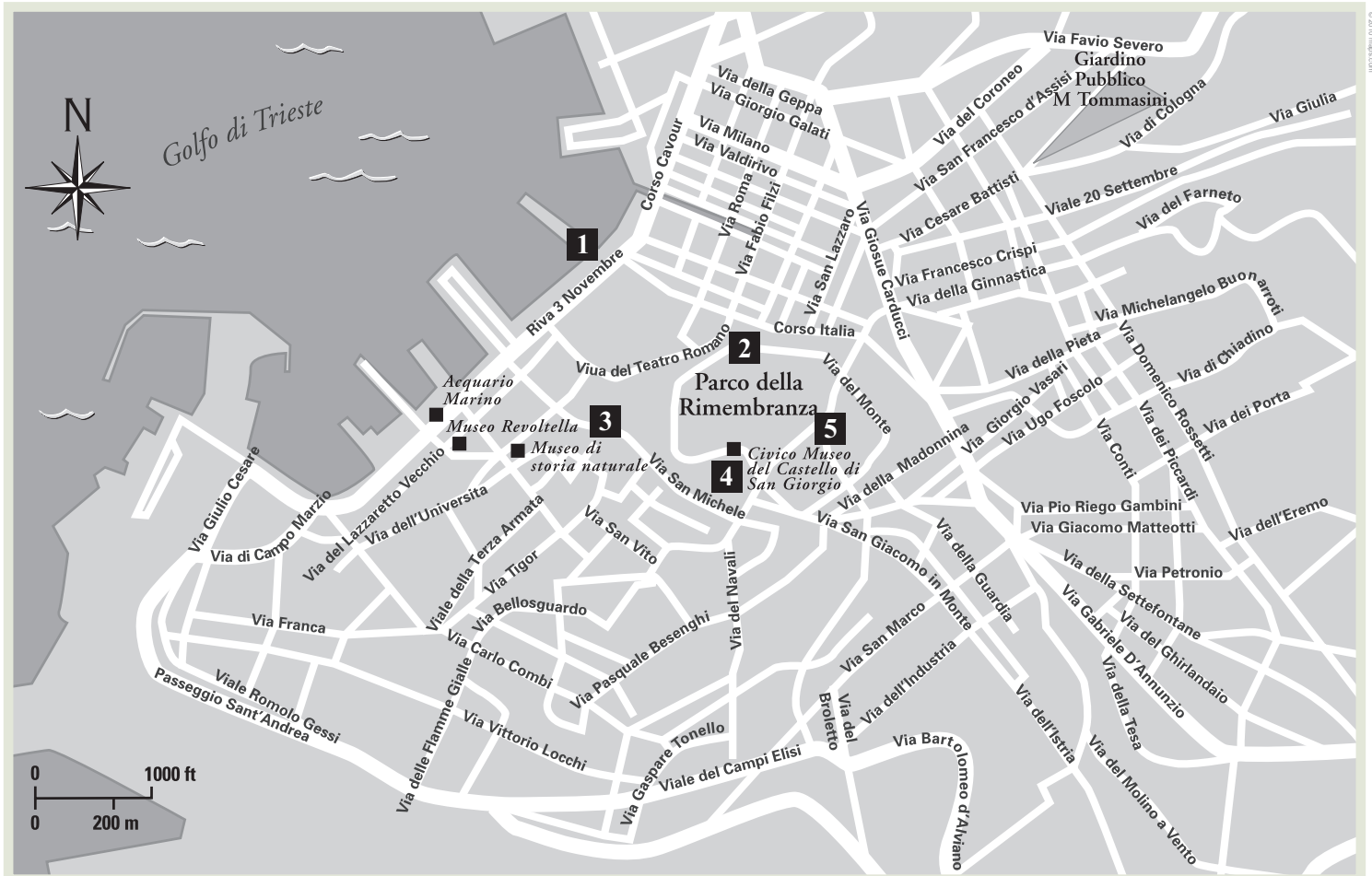
By the late 1300s Trieste was weary of the struggles it had faced for the previous two centuries as the mighty Republic of Venice flexed its economic and military muscle. The city leaders turned to the Austrian Habsburg dynasty for protection. In 1382 Trieste became an Austrian port city and slowly grew and prospered until the late 1700s when a diminutive Corsican corporal rose in power and began to wreak havoc throughout Europe. Three times, from 1797 to 1809, the French army under Napoleon marched through the gates of Trieste. Following the defeat of Napoleon, in 1813 Trieste reverted once again to serving as a vital Austrian trading port and naval base.

A century later Europe was once again torn by conflict. After the Allied defeat of Germany and Austria in the "War to End All Wars" the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed. Italy marched her army into Trieste. The Italians were followed into Trieste by their Nazi allies. Finally, in the closing days of World War II, on May 1st, 1945, the 10th Brigade of the Yugoslav Communist Partisan's 4th Army entered the city. On the very next day

the 9th Brigade, 22nd Battalion of the New Zealand Division, the vanguard of the Western Allied Powers, entered Trieste. The Soviet supported Yugoslav Communists would not easily relinquish control of Trieste. A singularly unique political and military tinderbox was ready to explode into a dangerous international situation. For the remaining citizens of a city now filled with Italian nationalists, Slovenes, loyalists and Nazi collaborators as well as the Yugoslav Communist Partisans,

Allied troops and captured German soldiers; the last days of World War II were difficult to say the least.

After a couple of years of UK-US military administrative control of Trieste, the city came under the protective mandate of the United Nations. It would be almost a decade following the end of World War II when on October 26, 1954 the ancient port city of Trieste was officially ceded to Italy.



## PLACES OF INTEREST

**1** The **Piazza Unità d'Italia** is the heart of Trieste. The large town square is surrounded by elegant buildings on three sides with the city's waterfront and docks opening up to the Adriatic Sea. Buildings in the plaza include the Prefettura (Government House), the Stratti, the Municipio, the Palazzo del Lloyd Trestino, the Caffè degli Specchi and the Palazzo Pitteri. In the center of the plaza is the Mazzoleni Fountain dating to the mid 1700s.

**2** The **Roman Theater** dates back to the 1st century AD and the rule of Emperor Trajan. The ruins are well preserved and easily accessible.

**3** The **Roman Arch** was believed to have been erected around 33BC. It is sometimes referred to as Arco di Riccardo. Local lore says King Richard the Lion Heart passed under the arch on his return trip from fighting in the Crusades.

**4** There are a number of historic churches in Trieste including the Serbian Orthodox church of **Chiesa di San Spiridione**, the **Church of San Nicolò dei Greci** and the **Cathedral of San Giusto**.

**5** The **St Just Castle** (Castello di San Giusto) was built between the 1400s and 1600s on the site of an ancient Roman fortification. There is a museum in the castle and great views from the castle walls.

## Beyond Trieste

The **Miramare Castle** was built for Austrian Archduke Maximilian between 1856 and 1860. The castle was constructed using bright white Istrian stone and stands out in vivid contrast against the blue water of the Adriatic Sea. The beautiful gardens surrounding the castle were laid out at the specific instructions of the Archduke.

**Duino Castle** rests upon a rock outcropping high above the sea. Built in the 1500s and renovated over the centuries, the castle has an amazing collection of objects and art dating back hundreds of years. The castle gardens help to make this a wonderful setting.

**Aquileia** is an ancient Roman town about an hour drive north along the Adriatic coast. Once an important trading center, the town was abandoned after barbarians invaded Italy. The Roman ruins plus those of an early Christian basilica are quite interesting.

**Borgo Grotta Gigante** is one of the largest cave complexes in all of Europe. Discovered in the late 1800s the caves have been open to the public for over a century. Visitors continue to marvel at the majestic stalagmites and stalactites which grace the massive galleries.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Trieste and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

Conservative dress is recommended, especially if planning to visit local cathedrals and churches.

## LOCAL CUSTOMS

**Bargaining:** Most items have fixed prices, but it may be possible to get a discount on a large purchase. It is normal to bargain at markets, except for food items.

**Tipping:** Generally a 10% service charge is added to restaurant bills, however, as this amount does not all go to the waiter, it is normal to offer a 5% tip to the waiter in addition to any service charge. For taxi drivers, a 5-10% tip is acceptable.

## LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

The cuisine of Trieste reflects the mingling of the various regional cultures together with the bounty of the sea. The Italians, Austrians and Slovenians are among the many who bring traditionally favorite recipes to the table. In the city's numerous cafés and restaurants visitors can easily find what Triestians have enjoyed for generations. Some of the favorites include shrimp, squid and sea bass, incredible hams, sausages and salamis, delicious goulash and a thick soup known as Jota, a wide variety of delectable cheese and sweet deserts like the local version of Austrian Apple Strudel, Strucolo.

**Drink Specialties:** When the Ottoman Empire laid siege to Vienna Austria in the late 1600s the Turks were eventually defeated and forced to retreat. Among the vast spoils of war left behind on the battlefield was something virtually unknown in Europe at the time...sacks of coffee. As the Austro-Hungarian Empire grew so did their love for their coffee houses. The café culture soon spread to the Austrian port of Trieste. Some of the first coffee houses which date to the early 1700s are still opened to this day. In Trieste, the distinguished Illy family, of Illy Caffè fame, has produced and exported their much loved coffee for the past three generations.

Dating back to the days of the Roman Empire the wine of the Friuli region of northeast Italy has long been famous. Though many fine red varieties are grown, this region is credited with producing what is arguably Italy's best white wine. There are far too many excellent and highly respected vineyards, both large and small, to single one out. Suffice it to say; if you are a wine lover (you do not need to be a connoisseur) you have come to the right place.

## SHOPPING FACILITIES

The Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia and the surrounding area have many antique stores. When searching for Italian fashion visitors have plenty of shops and boutiques from which to choose. Leather goods, antique books and even coffee machines are also popular items.

## LOCAL CURRENCY

The official unit of currency in this port of call is the Euro (€ - EUR). Euros can be used anywhere inside the member states. Most stores accept major credit cards.

