THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES LIVERY COMMITTEE

The Livery Committee International Travelling Club presents a visit to

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

MONDAY 10TH MAY TO SATURDAY 15TH MAY, 2021

Friuli Venezia Giulia at the north-eastern end of the Adriatic, is a cluster of Italian provinces between the Alps and the coast, bordered by Slovenia and Austria. Settled in prehistoric times by the Castellieri civilisation, and in the 4th century BC by Celtic tribes, from the 2nd century BC, Friuli was colonised by the Romans - Aquileia was the fourth largest city of Italy, and the first area in Italy to adopt Christianity. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the Patriarchate of Aquileia was one of the highest ecclesiastic authorities in Italy. Cividale (originally founded by Julius Caesar around 50BC) later become one of the main centres of the Lombard kingdom. The conquests of Charlemagne (748-814AD) brought it into the Frankish Empire and after centuries of war the province was divided between Venice and the Austrian Hapsburgs. All these invaders and settlers shaped the culture of the area and this tour will explore the art and architecture they left, in this most lovely and secluded region of Italy where we visit some of Italy's most beautiful villages.

We will stay 5 nights at the 4 star Hotel Astoria in central Udine, which was a residential villa in the 14th century. After a succession of aristocratic owners, the building was transformed into an elegant hotel, initially named "Gran Hotel Europa" and then "Grande Albergo d'Italia".
http://www.hotelastoria.udine.it/?page_id=prodotti&idcontenuto=422&idparent=100033&iddetail=101&LID=1

OUR PROGRAMME

THIS ITINERARY AND THE ORDER OF OUR VISITS MAY ALTER, SUBJECT TO LOCAL CONDITIONS OR UNEXPECTED RESTRICTIONS

DAY 1 Monday 10 May

✈ *Easyjet Priority Boarding: dep Gatwick 1230; arr Venice 1540.*

Transfer to Hotel, *dinner* in the hotel.

DAY 2 Tuesday 11 May: Aquileia, Grado & Palmanova

Aquileia was founded in 181 BC as a Roman military and trading centre with a harbour connecting it to its seaport in Grado. We visit the Romanesque-Gothic *basilica complex* with a lovely C4th floor mosaic and two crypts with further floor mosaics as well as C12th frescoes. We go on to explore the remains of the roman river port, and the *Archaeological Museum*. We *lunch* before driving along the causeway to **Grado**, a small island which was an important port in Roman times, and later served as a refuge for those fleeing the many invasions which ended the Roman empire. We visit the *c6th Basilica of Sant'Eufemia*, which also has lovely floor mosaics, and the *C6th Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie*. On the way back to Udine we will visit **Palmanova**, a splendid example of a fortified late renaissance bastion town built by the Venetians in 1593, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. *Dinner* in the hotel.

DAY 3 Wednesday 12 May: Cividale & Udine

At the end of the C6th **Cividale** became the capital of the first Lombard duchy in Italy and is now a World Heritage site. We visit the *Cathedral, the Cathedral museum*, the *Archaeological Museum and the Tempietto Longobardo*. *Lunch* in Cividale before returning to **Udine**, where the afternoon is spent on foot visiting the main sites of this small and charming town. Visits include the *Cathedral and Baptistery and the Galleria Tiepolo*. *Evening at leisure.*

Grand Canal, Trieste

DAY 4 Thursday 13 May: Trieste

A sea-port city, and the capital of Friuli, **Trieste** is situated between the Adriatic Sea and Slovenia. Its history has been shaped by its location at the crossroads of Latin, Slavic, and Germanic cultures. Settled since ancient times, its heyday was as the most important Hapsburg seaport and the fourth largest city of the Empire. At the time of the C19th *fin de siècle*, Trieste was an important centre for literature and music, and then played an important role in the East/West struggle after the end of the second World War. We visit the *Cathedral of San Giusto* with some surviving Byzantine mosaics, and walk through the C18th Hapsburg *Borgo Teresiano*, visiting the *Serbian Orthodox church of San Spiridone and the Greek Orthodox church of San Nicolo.* We will end the morning with a visit to the superb collection of 19-20th century painting and sculpture in *Museo Revoltella* in the mansion of a 19th century businessman. *Lunch* is provided. In the afternoon we drive around the **Bay of Trieste** to the promontory of Grignano where we visit the *Castello Miramare*, built in the later C19th for Archduke Ferdinand Maximillian of Hapsburg. *Dinner* in the hotel.

DAY 5 Friday 14 May: Pordenone, Spilimbergo & Portogruaro

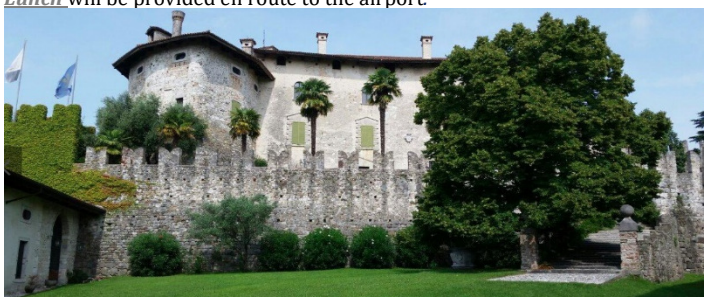
A day spent visiting some of the typical towns of Friuli, picturesque and colourful. In the morning we drive to **Pordenone**, the so-called "painted town", due to its frescoed palaces, its churches, and its painted squares (it is also famous for chocolate). We will then drive to **Spilimbergo** to visit the outstanding school of mosaics for a brief lecture and watch some students at work. *Lunch* is provided, and in the afternoon, we visit **Portogruaro**, a pretty town with a Venetian feel to it due to its elegant palaces. You will be free to wander around the town. *Farewell dinner* at local restaurant.

DAY 6 Saturday 15 May

Morning hotel check out, and departure at 10:00.

We drive north west of Udine for a visit to the medieval **Castello di Villalta**, (shown below) set on a hillside with fabulous views towards Udine and considered one of the most beautiful castles in the region.

Lunch will be provided en route to the airport.



✈ *Easyjet Priority Boarding: dep Venice 1845; arr Gatwick 2000*

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Easyjet Priority Boarding, reserved seats at the front, 23kg checked luggage
- UK Government duties and security charges
- 5 nights' accommodation in 4* Hotel Astoria, Udine
- Four dinners and five lunches with drinks
- Private Coach, complimentary bottled water
- All entrance fees in line with the programme
- Local professional guide; personal audio system
- Gratuities, except for driver and guide
- *Millennium Tours Director Tony Giambruno will accompany us.*

This visit is proposed by Chris Khoo on behalf of the WSA Livery Committee International Travelling Club and will be possible with a minimum of 25 participants. If you are interested, please contact tony@millenniumtours.co.uk and you will be sent an application form to book. Maximum numbers will be limited, and participants will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis.

(1) PRICE £1365 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OR TWIN ROOM INCLUDING MEALS AS SPECIFIED, PRIVATE TRANSPORT, ENTRY FEES, GUIDE SERVICES, PORTERAGE. (2) SOLO TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT £215 (DOUBLE ROOM FOR SINGLE USE). STANDARD SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £125 (3) DEPOSIT of £250 PER PERSON PAYABLE UPON BOOKING. (4) OPERATED BY MILLENNIUM TOURS – ATOL 10040