

Tesino Plateau - Trentino

Our guide to local attractions

Welcome to the Tesino Plateau, one of the most authentic and unspoilt corners of Trentino. Situated at around 900 metres above sea level, nestled between the Valsugana valley and the granite massif of Cima d'Asta, this area offers a genuine mountain experience: unspoilt nature, a millennia-old history, a rich living culture and activities for all tastes and all seasons.

In this guide you will find everything there is to see and do near your accommodation. For any additional information, please contact the APT Valsugana Lagorai tourist office in Castello Tesino (tel. +39 0461 727730).

Nature and Adventure

Castello Tesino Caves

The only caves open to visitors in the whole of Trentino, discovered in 1927, are an unforgettable experience for all ages. These karst cavities extend for around 700 metres at an altitude of 960 m a.s.l., filled with galleries, stalactites and stalagmites.

Unlike more commercialised caves, there are no artificial walkways or theatrical lighting here: just a helmet, a torch and an expert guide who will lead you on an authentic caving adventure, suitable from the age of 6.

Opening: June – October (guided tours only, also available for groups)

Equipment: Helmet and lamp provided on site. Hiking boots and a waterproof jacket recommended

Booking: Required

Info: APT Valsugana +39 0461 727730 – [Click here](#)

Trodo dei Fiori – Botanical Trail at Passo Brocon



One of the most beautiful nature trails in the north-eastern Alps. The botanical path starts at Passo Brocon (1,616 m) and, partly following ancient mule tracks from the First World War, climbs to 2,050 m at the summit of Cima Col del Boia, offering a 360° panorama over the Pale di San Martino, the Lagorai range, the Marmolada and the Vette Feltrine.

Along the route you will encounter over 300 species of alpine flowers – rhododendrons, gentians, lily martagon, wild orchids – described on ten information panels. A circular route suitable for the whole family, to be walked in 3–4 hours.

Elevation gain: approx. 434 m

Duration: 3 – 4 hours (circular route)

Difficulty: Easy (E) – suitable for families with children

Best season: Late May – September

Start: Passo Brocon car park (free parking)

Adventure Park – Cinte Tesino

Thrills and fun for children and adults alike, deep in the forest! The adventure park offers rope courses, suspended walkways and Tibetan bridges at various difficulty levels, from easy routes for the little ones to black lines for the true thrill-seekers.

Opening: Every day, 9:00 – 17:30

Location: Loc. Val Molin, Cinte Tesino

Prices: We recommend consulting the website or contacting those responsible.

Info: +39 327 3938952 – <https://adventuredolomiti.it/>

Biolago di Castello Tesino – Natural Swimming Lake

A natural haven of relaxation for the hottest days. The biolago is a natural bathing area, perfect for families. Surrounded by greenery, it offers a genuine space to swim and unwind far from the crowds.

Opening: June – September

Location: Loc. Le Parti, Castello Tesino (sports fields area)

Prices: Visit the [APT Valsugana – BioLago page](#)

Culture, History and Museums

Museo Casa De Gasperi – Pieve Tesino

Just a few kilometres from Castello Tesino lies Pieve Tesino, the birthplace of Alcide De Gasperi, founding father of the Italian Republic and one of the architects of the European Union. His



childhood home, converted into a museum in 2006, is today one of the most moving cultural stops in Trentino.

Sounds, images, sensory and multimedia installations tell the story of the statesman from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the birth of a united Europe. A journey through the great history of the twentieth century that begins in a small mountain village. Adjacent to the museum is the Giardino d'Europa De Gasperi, a floral semicircle evoking the European Parliament.

Location: Via Alcide De Gasperi, 1 – Pieve Tesino

Summer hours (May–Sep): Tue–Thu 14:30–18:30 · Fri–Sun & public holidays 10:00–13:00 / 14:30–18:30 · Monday closed

Winter hours (Oct–Apr): Sat–Sun 10:00–13:00 / 14:30–18:00

Tickets: For information, please refer to the web page or telephone contact.

Info: <https://www.degasperitn.it/> – Tel. 0461 314247

Museo Per Via – Prints and Itinerant Trade (Pieve Tesino)

A few steps from the De Gasperi Museum, this extraordinary museum tells a unique story: from the seventeenth century onwards, the inhabitants of the Tesino valley began to travel the roads of Europe selling popular prints, flints, spectacles and all manner of goods, eventually becoming important publishers and merchants in the major cities of Europe.

The museum is housed in Casa Buffa Giacantoni, an old building lived in by generations of print sellers, and holds photographs, documents, original prints and period reconstructions. A story of enterprise and courage that has shaped the cultural identity of this valley.

Location: Via De Gasperi 6/A – Pieve Tesino

Hours: Same opening hours as Museo Casa De Gasperi (combined ticket recommended)

Info: www.museopervia.it – Tel. 0461 314247

Giardino d'Europa De Gasperi – Pieve Tesino

The Garden of Europe is a green space of great symbolic value. Laid out in a semicircular shape evoking the European Parliament, it is planted with flowers and plants from the founding member states of the European Union.

A stroll through the colours and fragrances of the garden is a simple yet evocative way to reflect on De Gasperi's European dream: a continent united by peace, culture and cooperation between peoples. It is a quiet, intimate place, perfect for a contemplative pause after visiting the museum.

Location: S.P. per Cinte Tesino

Admission: Free of charge

Combine with: A visit to Museo Casa De Gasperi and Museo Per Via

Astronomy and Stargazing

Celado Astronomical Observatory

Just 6 km from Castello Tesino, on the Celado plateau at 1,260 m above sea level, stands one of the best-equipped non-professional astronomical observatories in Italy. The facility is owned by the Municipality of Castello Tesino and managed by the Tesino and Valsugana Amateur Astronomers' Association.

The heart of the observatory is a 7-metre dome housing a powerful reflecting telescope with an 800 mm primary mirror – among the five largest at non-specialist level in Italy. The observatory is accredited by the American Minor Planet Center (MPC) for scientific astrometric research (code K51).

Guided evening sessions, with fascinating explanations of the night sky, take place at weekends and on request throughout the week. During the day it is possible to observe the Sun, the Moon and the planets. At night, galaxies, nebulae, star clusters and planets come into view.

Location: Loc. Celado, Castello Tesino (1.6 km from Ristorante Al Cacciatore)

Opening: July–August: Fridays and Saturdays at 22:00 (Jul) / 21:30 (Aug). By appointment year-round.

Prices: For information, please refer to the web page or telephone contact.

Info: APT Valsugana +39 0461 727730 · <https://www.valledeltesino.eu>

Art in the Forest

Il Grifone del Tesino – The Vaia Wood Sculpture

On 29 October 2018, Storm Vaia felled 20 million Norway spruces across the north-eastern Alps, the greatest forest disaster in Italian history. From that immense tragedy was born an extraordinary work of art: Il Grifone del Tesino.

Sculptor Marco Martalar transformed roots and trunks brought down by the storm into a monumental sculpture weighing over 3,000 kg, assembled from 2,000 pieces of wood. The Griffin – a mythological creature half eagle, half lion – symbolises the union between Trentino (the eagle) and Veneto (the winged lion), the two regions that meet precisely in this border area.

Inaugurated on 9 September 2023, the work stands on the Celado plateau with breathtaking views over the Tesino basin and Cima d'Asta. Made from untreated wood, it is destined to transform with the seasons until it returns to the earth: an endless cycle of life, death and rebirth.

Location: Loc. Celado, Castello Tesino

Admission: Free, open all year

By car: Drive to the Celado car parks (Ristorante Ai Larici or Camping Alice) + 10–15 min walk on path/track

On foot: From Castello Tesino (Piazza S. Giorgio) following 'Grifone' signs: approx. 1h 20 min



Arte Sella – Contemporary Art

One of the most extraordinary and unique contemporary art experiences in the world, situated in the Valle del Sella, about 40 minutes from Castello Tesino.

Founded in 1986, this open-air museum hosts installations and sculptures by international artists created exclusively from natural materials — wood, stone, leaves, branches, bark — that blend into the forest and transform with the seasons, slowly dissolving back into nature. It is not a traditional sculpture park: it is an ongoing dialogue between art and forest, where every work is conceived for the place in which it is born and for the time that will consume it.

The main route, the Sentiero dell'Arte, extends for about 3 km along the Sella stream through a wood of chestnut and beech trees. A second path leads to the Cattedrale Vegetale (Vegetal Cathedral) by Giuliano Mauri, one of the most iconic and photographed works: a 12-metre Gothic structure built entirely from chestnut branches and poles, inside which 80 oak trees are growing, destined to become, over the decades, the true living cathedral.

Location: Valle del Sella, Borgo Valsugana (TN)

Distance: approx. 40 minutes by car from Castello Tesino

Opening: Late March to November (check exact dates at www.artesella.it)

Tickets: It is recommended to refer to the website or telephone contact

Difficulty: Easy – forest path, suitable for families

Info: www.artesella.it/ - +39 0461 751251

Hiking to Cima d'Asta

Cima d'Asta (2,847 m) – The Highest Peak of the Lagorai Range

Cima d'Asta is the queen of the Lagorai range and one of the finest hikes in the whole of Trentino. Its character is geological: it is a unique granite island within the Dolomites and eastern Alps, with glacier-polished rock slabs that glint in the sunlight like mirrors. From the summit, on clear days, the panorama stretches from the Dolomites to the Adamello, from the Veneto plain all the way – so they say – to the sea.

The starting point is Malga Sorgazza (1,441 m), reachable by car from Pieve Tesino along the Val Malene valley for about 11 km on a paved road. The main trail is path no. 327, well marked and manageable year-round by fit hikers.

Summit altitude: 2,847 m a.s.l.

Start: Malga Sorgazza (1,441 m) – Val Malene, Pieve Tesino

How to reach: From Pieve Tesino follow 'Val Malene' signs for approx. 11 km of paved road. Large free car park at the end.

Trail: No. 327 (SAT trail) · Recommended map: Tabacco 1:25,000 sheet no. 58

Elevation gain: approx. +1,000 m (Malga Sorgazza → Brentari Hut) · +370 m additional to summit

Distance: approx. 13 km return (to the hut)



Duration: 3 – 3h30 uphill to the hut · +1h15 to the summit · 2h30 descent

Difficulty to hut: E (Hiking) – requires good fitness and hiking boots

Difficulty to summit: EE (Experienced Hikers) – section with safety rope near the top

Best season: July – September. Always bring a waterproof jacket, plenty of water and a hat.

Rifugio S.A.T. Ottone Brentari (2,473 m)

Halfway up to the summit, the Ottone Brentari Hut is one of the most enchanting mountain refuges in Trentino. Opened in 1908 by the SAT, it looks out over a beautiful alpine lake – considered among the deepest in Europe at this altitude, at 38 metres deep – facing the majestic south face of Cima d'Asta.

With 56 beds split between dormitories and smaller rooms (some with lake and summit views), the hut is run with passion by Emanuele Tessaro, a member of the Tesino Mountain Rescue team. The kitchen serves dishes from the Trentino and Tyrolean tradition: gulaschsuppe, canederli, tagliatelle with venison ragù, strangolapreti and the celebrated Tiroler Gröstl.

Altitude: 2,473 m a.s.l.

Beds: 56 (dormitories and rooms with lake/summit views)

Opening: Approximately 18 June – 25 September (check each year)

Contacts: Tel. +39 0461 1637778 – info@rifugio-cimadasta.it

Website: www.rifugio-cimadasta.it

Dogs: Not allowed inside the SAT facility · External shelter with blankets available for dogs

Hiking Tips

CLASSIC ROUTE (recommended): from Malga Sorgazza, follow the forest road up to the Teleferica Brusà (45 min), then take trail 327 through the forest to Baita del Pastore (2,130 m, approx. 2h). From here choose between the 'Placche' (direct path over granite slabs, steeper and more scenic) or 'Trodo dei Aseni' (trail 327B, longer but gentler). Both converge at the lake and the hut (3h total). Return via the same route or take the Sentiero della Campagnassa (no. 386) for a longer loop.

TO THE SUMMIT: from the hut, take trail 364 towards the Forcelletta (approx. 1h15, EE). The final stretch has a safety rope. From the top, views extend over the Dolomites, Pale di San Martino, Marmolada and – on the clearest days – as far as the sea.

HISTORY: along the route you will pass the small Military Cemetery of the Val Brenta Battalion. From 1915 to 1917 these mountains were the scene of fierce fighting between Italian alpine troops and Austrian Kaiserjäger, and the area is still marked by trenches, barracks and military paths.

Important note: Mountain weather changes rapidly. Always set off early (by 8:00–9:00) to avoid afternoon thunderstorms. Do not attempt the summit if the sky is overcast.

Minimum equipment: Hiking boots (essential), rucksack with water (at least 2 litres), packed lunch, waterproof jacket, fleece, hat and sunglasses.

Sport and Leisure

Tesino Golf Club La Farfalla – Pieve Tesino

An authentic mountain golf course, where human intervention has been limited to laying out the greens and tees, leaving the natural landscape to do the rest. The club extends over around 40 hectares around the Coldanè hill, with undulating fairways and views of the Dolomites that make every hole a unique experience.

The 9-hole course (double tee positions for 18 different holes) is perfect both for those wanting to take up golf in an informal setting and for experienced golfers seeking a challenging course. Ideal for escaping the summer heat of the plains and playing in the fresh mountain air.

Location: Loc. Coldanè, 11 – Pieve Tesino

Course: 9 holes, 2,780 m, Par 35

Facilities: Training green, putting green, bar, pro shop, restaurant

Season: 15 March – 15 November · Monday closed (open July–August)

How to get there: 45 min from Bassano del Grappa and Trento (SS 47 Valsugana, Altopiano del Tesino exit, approx. 12 km)

Other Outdoor Activities

The area has much more to offer for those who love the outdoors:

Mountain Biking & eBike – The Tesino Bike network offers marked routes for MTB and e-MTB, maintained from May to October, suitable for all levels. [Click here for all routes.](#)

Trekking – 21 marked trails at various difficulty levels. Among the finest: the Monte Coppolo walk (4 km, 360° panorama), the 'I Mille Volti del Bosco' nature trail (3.6 km, family-friendly with information boards), and the routes to Cima d'Asta (2,847 m) for experienced hikers. [Click here for all routes.](#)

Winter Skiing – Passo Brocon has ski facilities (Ski Lagorai Funivie) with artificial snowmaking. Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are all available.

Fishing – The Torrente Grigno River Park offers superb fly-fishing opportunities in a setting of great natural beauty.



Useful Information

Getting Your Bearings

Castello Tesino is situated at approximately 940 m a.s.l., 45 minutes from both Trento and Bassano del Grappa along the SS 47 Valsugana road. The 'Conca del Tesino' basin encompasses three villages: Castello Tesino (the largest), Pieve Tesino and Cinte Tesino, all reachable within a few minutes by car.

When to Visit

Summer (June–September): the ideal season for hiking, caves, the observatory, golf and the natural swimming lake. The Trodo dei Fiori flowers are at their peak in June–July. Winter (December–March): skiing, snowshoeing and breathtaking snowy landscapes at Passo Brocon. Spring and autumn: extraordinary colours and near-empty trails.

Useful Contacts

APT Valsugana Lagorai Castello Tesino: +39 0461 727730

Museo De Gasperi & Museo Per Via: www.degasperitn.it | +39 0461 314247

Adventure Park: +39 327 3938952 – adventuredolomiti.it

Rifugio S.A.T. Ottone Brentari: Tel. +39 0461 1637778 – rifugio-cimadasta.it

info@rifugio-cimadasta.it

Enjoy exploring the Tesino Plateau!

This guide is provided by your host · Please don't hesitate to contact us for any information or suggestions.