

# Bike.Sacile

## VENEZIA DELLE NEVI

**Venezia delle Nevi** is the road from Dardago up the valley of the Artugna stream to Piancavallo. Built in the 1960s, cleaned and restored in 2019 by paving the section that remained unpaved, it is now a beautiful MTB route, wide and rideable on an E-MTB for those who have not had a lot of training. From Sacile we follow the *Ciclovia del Livenza* until S. Giovanni di Polcenigo and then the *Ciclovia Pedemontana FVG3* to the railway station of Budoia. You can also start from here: there is space to park your car and a daily train+bike service from Sacile. We immediately begin to climb with a slight gradient, passing through the centre of the village to Dardago: here begins the ascent along the Artugna, on a wide road with no traffic. At Lo Chalet restaurant, there is a path to a beautiful little church dedicated to *San Tomè*. Immediately afterwards there is a barrier beyond which only bicycles and pedestrians may pass. The rough asphalt climb is 9km long and leads to Sauc, with many hairpins and an average gradient of 8%. The view over the plain below and the steep walls and gorges of the Artugna is nothing short of spectacular! From Sauc it is a short ride to Piancavallo. From there we can also descend by other roads to Aviano and Budoia. The return to Sacile can take place by train or along the Pedemontana FVG 3 cycle route.

### Points of interest

**Budoia, Museo del fungo (48)** - Located in the former dairy, it is one of Italy's largest museums of its kind, containing a very interesting collection of 270 life-size models of mushrooms, with information on whether they are dangerous or not, popular beliefs and much more.

**Loc. Dardago, Pieve di Santa Maria Maggiore (49)** - This is the main church in the area, the current building of which dates back to the beginning of the 19th century and inside houses a monumental high altar.

**Budoia, Val di Croda (51)** - This valley is the most mountainous part along the Artugna stream that runs under high vertical walls. Spectacular alpine views and shady forests lead to the small church of *San Tomé (50)*, in the vicinity of which important archaeological remains have been found dating from the Neolithic period to the early Middle Ages.

**Aviano** - This town is an important centre in the Pordenone foothills and home to the USAF air base of the same name. The historic church **(55)** houses valuable works of art, including one of the best paintings by Baroque painter Gaspare Narvesa. Along the road to Castello d'Aviano is the birthplace (commemorated by a plaque) of the Blessed Father Marco d'Aviano **(54)**, the famous Capuchin friar preacher and advisor to the courts of European sovereigns in the 17th century, the protagonist in 1683 of the victorious defence of Vienna against the Ottoman siege.

**Castello d'Aviano** - Site of a medieval fortress, this village preserves remains of the ancient walls. The most important vestiges of that time are the Churches of *Santa Giuliana (52)*, with frescoes from the 14th century, and *San Gregorio (53)*, with the beautiful cycle of the Passion painted by Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo at the end of the 15th century.

### Characteristics of the route

**Total length:** 30,5 km one way (18 km starting from Budoia train station)

**Total climb:** 1,300 m. one way (1,200 m. starting from Budoia train station)

**Difficulty:** challenging

**Usable bicycle types:** MTB, E-MTB

**Paved road:** 28,5 km

**Unpaved road:** 2 km

**Fountains along the road:** yes

**Camper parking areas:** yes

**Bicycle services:** in Sacile, Budoia, Dardago, Piancavallo and Aviano

**Train+bike stations:** in Sacile, Budoia and Aviano

**Car parking areas:** in all towns and villages along the route

**Restaurants and bars:** in all towns and villages, also along the uphill route

