

A Park heritage of Humanity



www.dolomiti park.it



The Territory

"There is no landscape in the world that changes so strikingly as the Dolomites"; so wrote, in 1864, the Englishmen, Gilbert and Churchill, among the first "explorers" of the Dolomites. Today these landscapes, now Unesco world heritage sites, are known to everyone. One area however still remains particularly fascinating and wild and is able to produce the same surprises and convey the same emotions enjoyed by early nineteenth-century travellers: the Belluno Dolomites National Park. An enchanted world of cliffs and woods, plateaus full of sunshine and dark canyons, raging waters and arid stony ground; 31,000 hectares of wilderness less than 100 km from Venice, with an incredible array of flowers and plants and extraordinary wildlife. The protected area coincides with the "Dolomiti Feltrine e Bellunesi" Natura 2000 site, where a variety of habitats exists which enhances the biodiversity of the Park in its entirety. The park is located in the southern part of the province of Belluno, between the valleys of the Cisono Torrent to the west and the River Piave to the east. It includes medium and high-altitude mountain environments (400-2,500 metres). The mountain groups involved are those of Feltre Alps (Vette, Cimonega, Pizzocco), and the Sole-Feruch, Schiara-Talvéna, Prampèr-Mezzodi and Tàmer-San Sebastiano Mountains. The main peaks are: Schiara (2,565 m), Sassi de Mura (2,550 m), Talvéna (2,542 m), Pavione (2,335 m) and Pizzon (2,240 m).



History

The areas included in the Park, today almost completely dominated by nature, were inhabited for thousands of years and feature valuable evidence of an ancient human presence. Among the most important examples are many prehistoric archaeological sites; the Imperina Valley mining centre, a gem of industrial archaeology with a history of more than half a millennium, which for centuries supplied the Republic of Venice with the copper it needed for its mint, arsenal, and the roofs of churches and buildings; the Vedana Charterhouse, an architectural complex of exceptional value, used for centuries by the Carthusian monastic community; the churches of the piedmont area, places of worship and popular devotion of the local communities; the ancient medieval hospices of Cordevole Valley which, thanks to major restoration works, have been restored to their original welcoming and hospitality function; roads and military works; the high pastures used for summer grazing, restored by the Park and equipped with modern dairies; besides all the "minor" signs left by ancient mountain inhabitants: from the lime furnaces to the centuries-old dry stone walls delimiting the pastureland. Today, the Park is engaged in the study of these ancient remains, in their recovery and promotion for tourist purposes, as well as in bolstering the traditional mountain economy.



Geology

Since 2009, the Park has been a Unesco World Heritage Site, by virtue of the unique beauty of its landscapes and the scientific relevance of its geomorphological history. A history spanning over 250 million years, which began in the tropical seas where the corals built what are today the mighty dolomite rock faces; and continued in deeper seas, where the sediments were deposited which have generated the "younger rocks" of the Park. Starting about 65 million years ago, the huge layers of sediment deposited on the sea bed were raised up. After surfacing (about 1.5 million years ago), the slow action of water and glaciers carved in the rocks the unique landscapes we can admire today. The "waterways" which invite us and accompany us to the highest peaks are the Stien, Caorame, Veses, Mis, Falcina, Cordevole, Imperina, Vescovà, Ardo, Grisol and Pramper torrents. The bowels of these mountains are also home to equally extraordinary environments. The Piani Eterni karst complex, in the heart of the Park, and which is still being explored and researched, is the largest in the Dolomites, and one of the largest and deepest in Italy, with more than 35 kilometres of tunnels explored and a depth of over one kilometre.



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How to get there

The Park is in the Veneto region, in the southern part of the province of Belluno, less than one hundred kilometres from Venice. The main entrance towns to the park are Belluno and Feltre, both of which have railway stations (lines from Pavia and Venice). Belluno can be reached by the A27 motorway, State Road 51, the Regional roads 50 and 203; Feltre can be reached by the Regional roads 50 and 348. The only roads that cross the park are: Provincial road no. 2 of the Mis Valley and the Agordina no. 203 Regional road.



Research, conservation, innovation

The Park has funded more than 150 research projects and compiled an "inventory of biodiversity" kept constantly updated thanks inter alia to citizen science projects, such as those of the Atlases of breeding birds and Amphibians and Reptiles. Research has been carried out into the natural, historical and archaeological, and anthropological environments, and commitment towards monitoring and control is constant. Knowledge is the prerequisite for proper conservation and active management (foreseen by planning tools), such as the case of meadow mowing, performed by the Park authorities for some years now; the recovery and maintenance of pastures for summer grazing; the adoption of forestry methods that harmonize tree felling and the protection of biodiversity. These measures preserve the results of centuries-old human activity which has created favourable conditions for the life of many species of plants and animals. The Park is a "laboratory" in which to combine conservation and innovation, to develop models of local socio-economic development that can also be exported outside its boundaries. Thanks to the "Fossil free" project, the Park has promoted the use of renewable energies; while the "Paper Quality" project ("Carta Qualità") assigns its logo to local products and services that ensure quality standards and environment friendliness. Today the circuit includes over 200 farms, as well as tourist and small businesses, which share the Park's goals while promoting the socio-economic fabric of the territory. The Park is the first protected area in Europe to have obtained integrated ISO 9001-14001 and EMAS certification; it has contributed to the EMAS certification of 5 of the 15 municipalities of the district and has obtained the Ecolabel for its "Al Frassen" guesthouse. In 2015, the Park obtained the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.



Flowers and Plants

One of the main reasons for the establishment of the Park is the extraordinary richness of its flora, determined by the many different types of terrain, with strong differences in altitude within fairly restricted spaces; by the dynamics of periods dominated by glaciation; by its geographical position, thanks to which the Belluno Dolomites are now home to both thermophilic and southern species, and species of eastern or central European origin; by traditional agroforestry activities which have favoured the creation of typical semi-natural habitats, made up of alpine pastures and meadows, home to a broad range of plants and rare species.

In the Park and the surrounding areas live 1,700 different species; over a quarter of Italian flora. This heritage includes endemic and rare species and others of high phyto-geographical value such as the *Campanula morettiana* (symbol of the protected area), the Alpine Larkspur and the Alpine Bells. Four are the species described by science for the first time: *Thlaspi minimum*, *Minuartia graminifolia*, *Rhizobotrya alpina* and *Alchemilla lasenii*. Among the must-see destinations for lovers of botany are: the blooming of the Busa delle Vette; the *Pinguicula poldinii* in Val di Lamen; the Cajada silver fir and beech forest; the maple, ash and linden woodlands of Val Costa dei

Nass; the mixed forests of silver fir and deciduous hardwoods of the Val del Grisol, the only ones of the kind in Europe.



Wildlife

The Park occupies just a thousandth of Italy's total surface area, but is home to half the species of nesting birds in our country, a third of the species of bats, 40% of daytime butterflies and 25% of nocturnal ones. All the species of alpine wildlife live here (with the exception of the ibex). By visiting the Park you will be able to spot chamois and deer; roe deer and marmots; hares and squirrels. Among the carnivores which live in the Park are bears, lynxes, wolves and, since 2014, also wild cats. Bird-watchers can observe golden eagles (present with 10 breeding pairs) and peregrine falcons, grouse and black grouse, ptarmigan and black woodpeckers, and listen to the owls in the silence of the darkness, to the rare corn-crake hidden among the grass of the vast grasslands or observe the goosander on lake Mis. The herpetofauna includes 12 species of amphibians and 13 reptiles including black salamander, toad, Horvath lizard and horned viper. The invertebrates include many unique endemic species, along with others currently undergoing strong depletion, such as the *Rosalia alpina*: a beautiful black and blue beetle which lives in the old beech woods.





Nature valleys and access points

The Park Area is very well-structured: a network of valleys sculpted by glaciers and torrents. Each valley is the entrance door to extraordinary places. Come and discover the water courses of the Mis and Veses Valleys; the Cajada and Grisolo Forests; the landscapes of the Lamen and Canzoi Valleys; the fossil gorge in Valle dell'Ardo or the dolomitic rock faces of the Pramper Valley.

- 1 Val Prampèr:** a typical dolomitic glacier valley, surrounded by rocky faces and rocky peaks, scree and dwarf mountain pines.
- 2 Val del Grisolo:** secluded and solitary, with extraordinary ravine woodlands.
- 3 Cajada:** forest of silver fir and beech, used for centuries by the Republic of Venice.
- 4 Valle dell'Ardo:** full of spectacular canyons, like the fossil gorge of Bus del Buson.
- 5 Val di San Martino:** a microcosm between the city of Feltre and the mighty southern rock faces of the Vette Feltrine.
- 6 Val di Lamen:** the rock walls high above are dotted with small cavities (covoli) inhabited between the Stone Age and the Middle Ages.
- 7 Valle del Mis:** a world of water and rocks which, among others, also appealed to Dino Buzzati.
- 8 Val Cordevòle:** a "canal" which cuts through the Park a centuries-old communication route between Venice and the rest of Europe.
- 9 Val di Canzoi:** among the best-known valleys of the Park, a departure point of numerous high-altitude hiking trails.
- 10 Valle Imperina:** the location of the namesake mining village, which for centuries provided Venice with copper.
- 11 Torrente Vesés - Val Scura:** a "water route" that runs from the Erea plateau down to the Piave.



The park facilities

- 1 Piero Rossi Cultural Centre**
Piazza Piloni - Belluno - Tel 0437.27030
centroculturale@dolomitipark.it
Dedicated to one of the Park's founder fathers, it comprises a café, bookshop and "Carta Qualità" store.
- 2 Uomini di Valle Imperina Visitor Centre**
Loc. Miniere - Rivamonte Agordino
Located in the former hydro-electric installation at the service of the mines, it provides more in-depth information on local history and traditions.
- 3 Il sasso nello stagno Visitor Centre**
Piazza 1° Novembre, 1 - Pedavena
cypedavena@dolomitipark.it
Located in the former Council Building, it provides info on geology, plants, bio-diversity and relation between Park and surrounding district.
- 4 Campanula morettiana botanical garden**
Val del Mis - Sospirolo
Permits observing high-altitude species without having to undertake any tiring walks. It provides access for the disabled and didactic aids for the blind and partially-sighted.
- 5 La Santina Environmental Education Centre**
Val di Canzoi - Cesiomaggiore - Mobile 329.0040808
Features scientific equipment, a classroom and a documentation centre.
- 6 Dolomiti Bellunesi Natural History Museum**
Piazza Piloni - Belluno - Tel 0439.3328
Contains the herbariums of three great Dolomite plant experts (Lasen, Sandi, Caldari) and a multimedia layout illustrating the plant species to be found in the Park. Using two computer stations, visitors can enter plant databanks and project short documentary films on the Park on a large screen.
- 7 Province of Belluno and Park ethnographic museum**
Loc. Serravella - Cesiomaggiore - Tel. 0439.438355
Narrates the story of living in the mountains from the end of the 19th century. It contains the art collection of the mountain climber and writer, Giuseppe Mazzotti.
- 8 Ethnographic museum - La Valle**
Via Chiesa - La Valle Agordina - Tel. 0437.62298
This is split into two sections: district and architecture. One room in the museum is dedicated to the Park's activities in support of traditional agriculture.
- 9 The melting furnaces of the Imperina Valley**
Loc. Miniere - Rivamonte Agordino
An industrial archaeology gem in the old copper mines of the Serenissima Republic of Venice.
- 10 Candatèn refreshment and motor home area and info point**
Val Cordevòle - Via La Stanga, 28 - Sedico
candatèn@dolomitipark.it
Large picnic area with tables and barbecue, café, local products store, motorhome area with services, along the Agordina Regional Highway.
- 11 Croce d'Aune Info Point**
Passo Croce d'Aune - Sovramonte
Info point alongside the car park from where the trails start to reach the Vette Feltrine.
- 12 Pian Falcina refreshment and motor home area and info point**
Valle del Mis - Sospirolo - valledelmis@dolomitipark.it
On the shore of Lake Mis, the area includes: refreshment point, equipped picnic area, play park, public toilets, info point, bungalow and motorhome area
- 13 Pian d'Avena refreshment area**
Pian d'Avena - Pedavena
Area equipped with tables, barbecue and a small refreshment facility, along the road to the Croce d'Aune pass.
- 14 Guesthouse Al Frässen**
Val Canzoi - Cesiomaggiore - mobile 329.0040808
Sleeps 22, with amenities, kitchen, dining room.
Ideal for families, groups, school camps
- 15 All'Antica Torre Restaurant**
Via Col dei Mich, 237 - Sovramonte
Located in a traditional farmhouse, built on the foundations of an old watchtower. Offers dishes prepared with local produce
- 16 Imperina Hostel**
Loc. Miniere - Rivamonte Agordino
Located in the former Imperina Valley mining centre, it sleeps 37 people in 4 and 6-bed rooms.



Shelters and bivouacs

- 1 G. Dal Piaz Shelter**
Passo Vette Grandi - 1,993 m
Tel. 0439.9065 - 329.3647428
info@rifugiodalpiaz.com
- 2 B. Boz Shelter**
Loc. Conca Nevetta - 1,718 m
Tel. 0439.64448 - 348.7248949
rifugioboz@gmail.com
- 3 F. Bianchet Shelter**
Loc. Pian dei Gat - 1,245 m
Tel. 0437.669226
rifugiobianchet@hotmail.com
- 4 Pian de Fontana**
Loc. Pian de Fontana - 1,632 m
Tel. 0437.1956135 - 335.6096819
piandefontana@livecom.it
- 5 7° Alpini Shelter**
Loc. Pis Pilon - 1,502 m
Tel. 0437.941631
infostettoalpini@gmail.com
- 6 Sommariva al Pramperet Shelter**
Loc. Prà della Vedova - 1,857 m
Tel. 0437.1956153
info@rifugiosommarivaalpramperet.it
- 7 Bivouac Brendöl** - m 1,686
- 8 Bivouac Campotoróndo-Gozzer** - m 1,763
- 9 Bivouac La Varéta** - m 1,709
- 10 Bivouac Le Mandre** - m 1,378
- 11 Bivouac Le Prese** - m 1,442
- 12 Bivouac Malga Alvis** - m 1,573
- 13 Bivouac Monsampiàn** - m 1,902
- 14 Bivouac Ramézza Alta** - m 1,485
- 15 Bivouac Tavernazzo** - m 1,104
- 16 Bivouac Bocco-Zago** - m 2,266
- 17 Bivouac Bósch dei Bói** - m 1,501
- 18 Bivouac Carnielli-De Marchi** - m 2,010
- 19 Bivouac Casera Nusiéda Alta** - m 968
- 20 Bivouac Dalla Bernardina** - m 2,320
- 21 Bivouac Feltre-Bodo** - m 1,930
- 22 Bivouac Casera Medassa** - m 1,340
- 23 Bivouac Pala** - m 1,577
- 24 Bivouac Sperti** - m 2,000

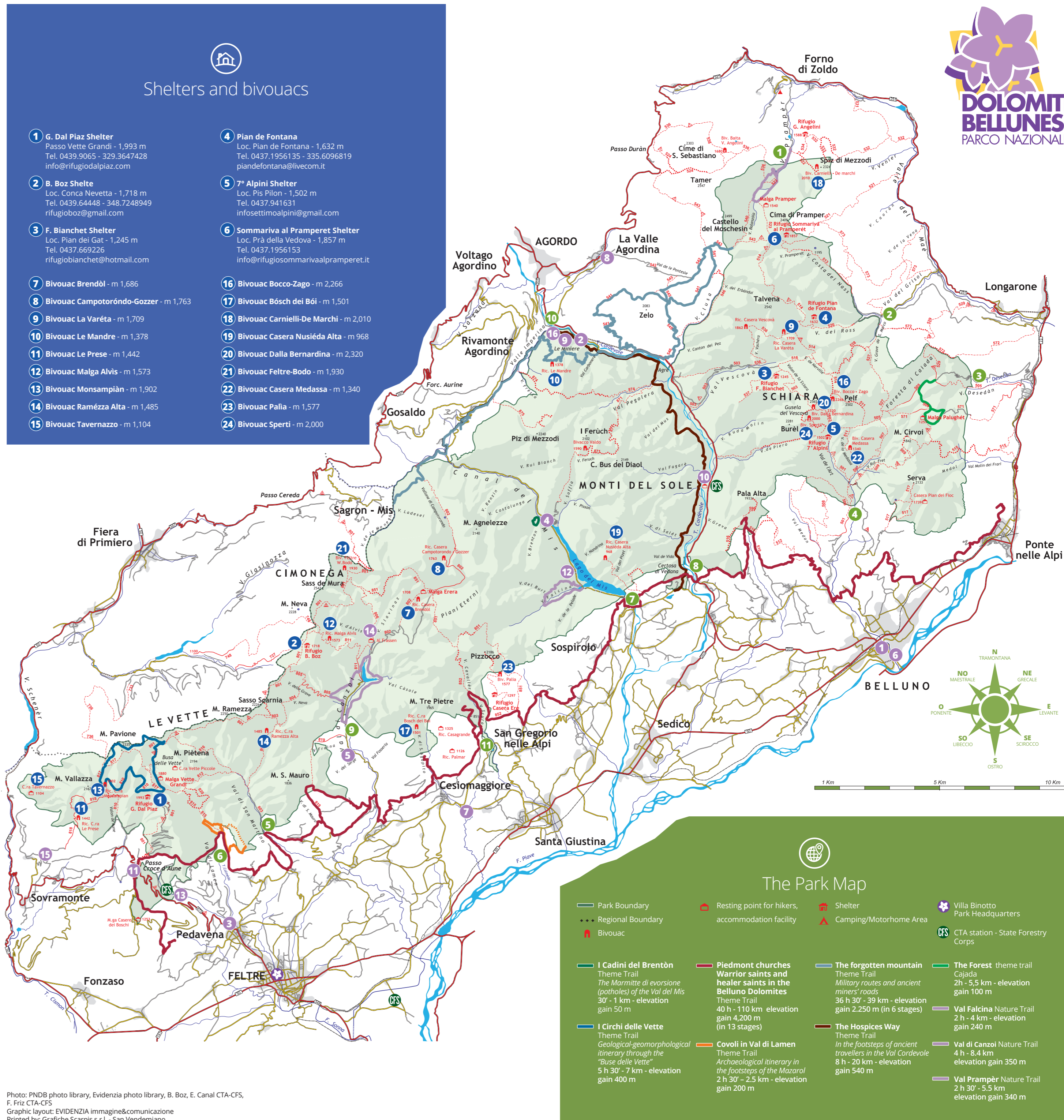


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