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NATURALISTIC - ETHNOGRAPHIC TRAILS AND VISITOR CENTRES

ERTO E CASSO: THE HISTORY AND REBIRTH OF VAJONT



PROGRAMME

The trail is located in the municipality of Erto e Casso, part of the Borghi Autentici d'Italia (Authentic Villages of Italy) association. The municipality was marked by a huge tragedy in Vajont in 1963 and the local area is still marked by innumerable traces of that disastrous event.

However, the population has found the strength to revive itself and these days, in addition to the necessary spaces dedicated to memory, visitors can also appreciate the town's natural, architectural, ethnographic, sporting and culinary feats.

- Meet with the nature guide at Vajont Dam (Erto e Casso - PN).
- Set off on a nature walk to significant places related to the Vajont catastrophe in order to find out more about the 1963 tragedy and understand how the Great Vajont project came to be and how the local population lived before the dam was built. You can also visit the village of Casso, which offers an almost perfect view of Monte Tóç's sliding slabs. Travel to the Bosco Vecchio trail. A place where trees have grown over the earth's wounds. These are special trees where the ground slipped beneath the roots due to the collision. Some trees are bent, some have died but others have modified their trunks, turning themselves into roots for new trees. The landscape that can be admired today is unique and demonstrates how nature is resistant and adapts, a metaphor for the people of Vajont, too.
- Option to visit the crown of Vajont Dam.
- Packed lunch in the surrounding area.
(if the weather is bad, packed lunches will be enjoyed at the visitor centre).
- Trip to the visitor centre and the "Vajont: Images and Memories" and "The Vajont Catastrophe - Memories in Space" exhibitions. The visitor centre is one of the most important and complete facilities to have documented the Vajont disaster and is a valid reference point for studies and research. Part One: The "Vajont: Images and Memories" exhibition hosts a collection of old photographs. The exhibition goes back in time to unearth the traditions, habits and customs of the people of Vajont before the tragic event on 9 October 1963, when a huge landslide broke away from Monte Tóç and crashed into the artificial lake, unleashing a wall of water that caused 2,000 deaths. Part Two: "Memories in Space" delves into the complete history of the event in scientific detail, from the design of the "Grande Vajont" hydroelectric basin to how the dam worked. All events are told through the use of descriptive panels. Visitors can also consult tables, graphs and compare illustrative relief maps. In the multimedia room, visitors can benefit from a complete overview of the catastrophe on a CD-ROM and also watch a graphic reconstruction of the landslide, as well as original films from the time.
- Option to visit the village and its interesting buildings.
- Option to visit the exhibitions at Vajont's Ecomuseum - the Continuity of Life. The facility has curated several exhibitions, the most specific of which is dedicated to "Voices in the Woods," a sensory journey where wood is the common theme. Mauro Corona narrates the voices of the trees as part of an audio-sound trail accessible with the use of sensory headphones; the exhibition "Partire, partirò, partir bisogna..." (a reference to an old Italian song) is dedicated to the street sellers who sold objects in order to survive; inside the ecomuseum, wooden sculptures by artists who participated in the Erto Sculpture Symposium held every year in mid-October are on show.
- End of guided tour.

LENGTH OF TIME

- Full day, adaptable half-day
If it's raining, activities will take place indoors, and alternative activities will be arranged at the visitor centres.
The programme can be modified according to group needs.

MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR THE EXCURSION

- Hiking boots or sturdy trainers and appropriate clothing for a mountain hike.
- Waterproof jacket

