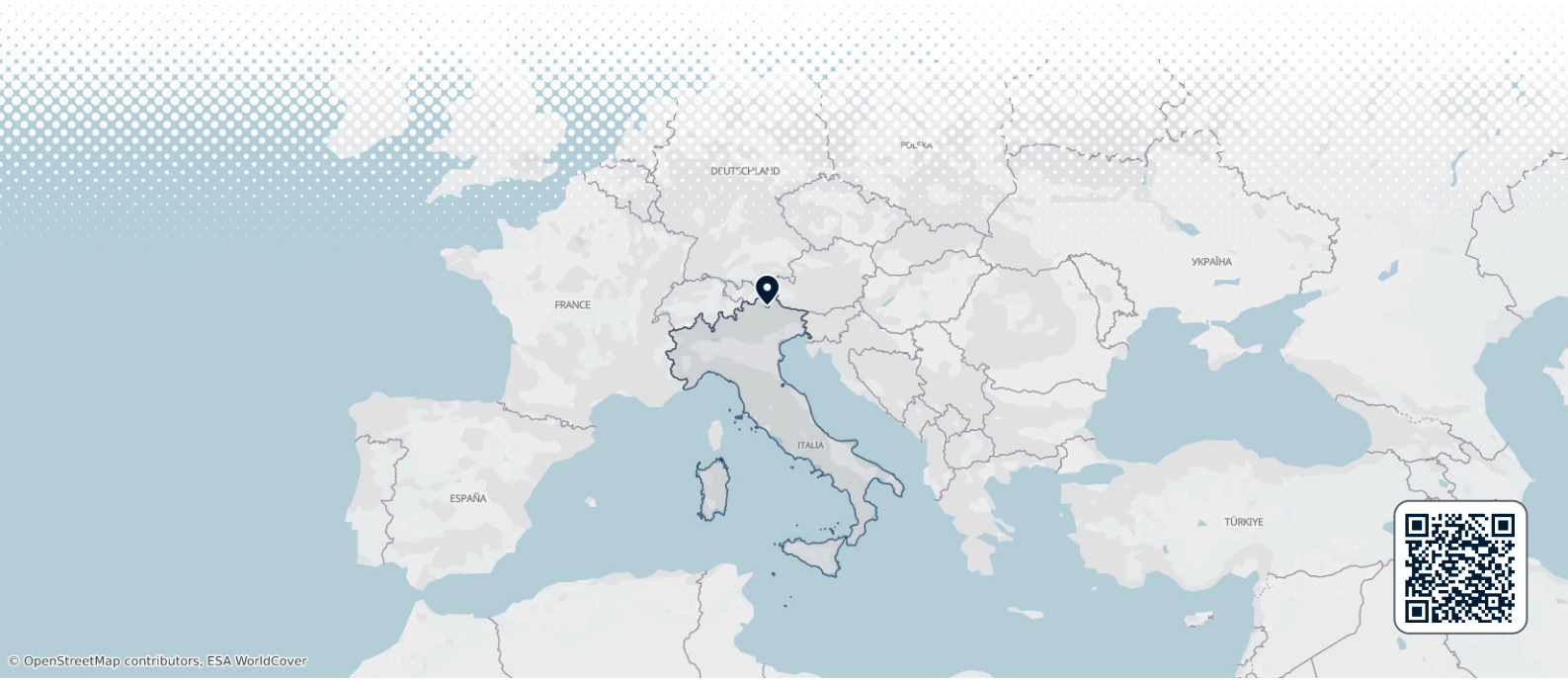


Brixen

Trentino-South Tyrol · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Brixen (Bressanone in Italian) sits where the Eisack and Rienz rivers meet, ringed by the peaks of the Dolomites and the Sarntal Alps. For more than 750 years it was the seat of a prince-bishopric, and its compact old town still centers on the cathedral and the bishops' palace. Brixen suits travelers who want a slower alpine city break: cobbled lanes, mountain views, and easy access to hiking and skiing, without the crowds of the bigger Dolomite resorts.

Street signs and menus appear in both German and Italian. Most locals speak German as a first language, a legacy of South Tyrol's history as part of Austria until 1919.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild, good for walking and cycling in the valley. Summer stays comfortably warm for hiking higher up, with afternoon thunderstorms common in July and August. Winter is cold and snowy, and skiing on the nearby Plose mountain runs from December into March.

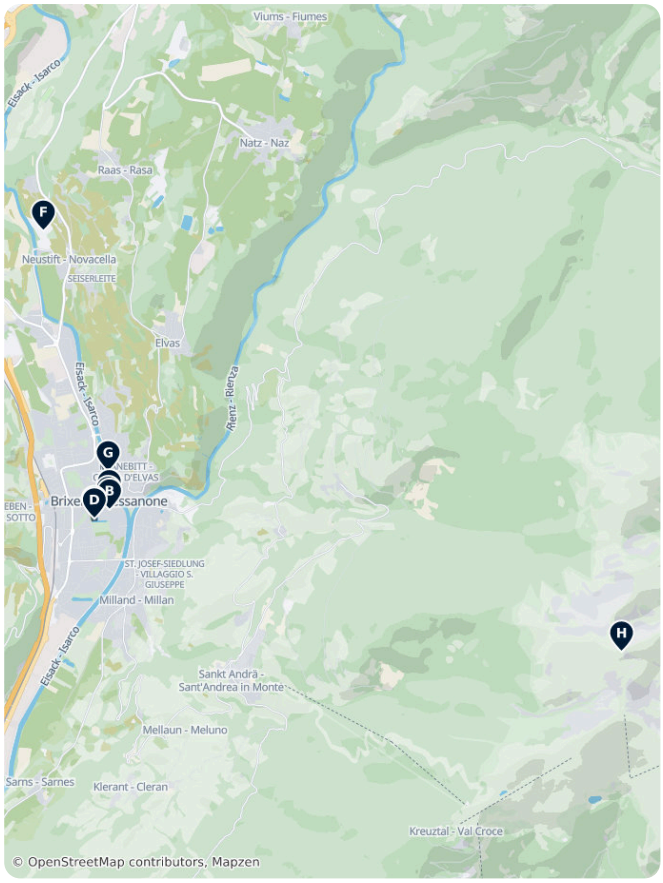
Time a visit around the Christmas market on Domplatz, which runs from late November into early January.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	5° / 10° Feels like 2°	-4° / -13°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	-3° / -14°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for cycling	11° / 18°	1° / -9°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22°	6° / -1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	10° / 4°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	14° / 8°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	26° / 31°	16° / 9°	21 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	26° / 32°	16° / 10°	19 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 27°	12° / 5°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	8° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	11° / 18°	4° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	6° / 11° Feels like 3°	-2° / -11°	Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Cathedral of Brixen anchors the old town. Its Romanesque core was rebuilt in Baroque style in the 18th century, though a crypt from the earlier church survives underneath.
- Next to it, B Cathedral Cloister still shows faded medieval frescoes along its arcaded walkway, one of the best-preserved cloisters in the region.
- C Hofburg Brixen was the prince-bishops' residence for centuries. Its halls now house D Diocesan Museum, known for a large collection of hand-carved nativity cribs.
- E White Tower is the bell tower of the parish church next to the cathedral, rebuilt in the 15th century. Climb it for one of the best views over the rooftops of the old town.
- A short trip north of the center, F Neustift Abbey is a working Augustinian monastery with a Baroque library and its own winery, among the oldest in the Alps.
- G Acquarena is a large indoor and outdoor water park, good for a relaxed afternoon with kids or after a day on the trails.
- H Plose is the mountain massif rising directly above town, reachable by cable car, with hiking trails in summer and skiing in winter.



Brixen – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

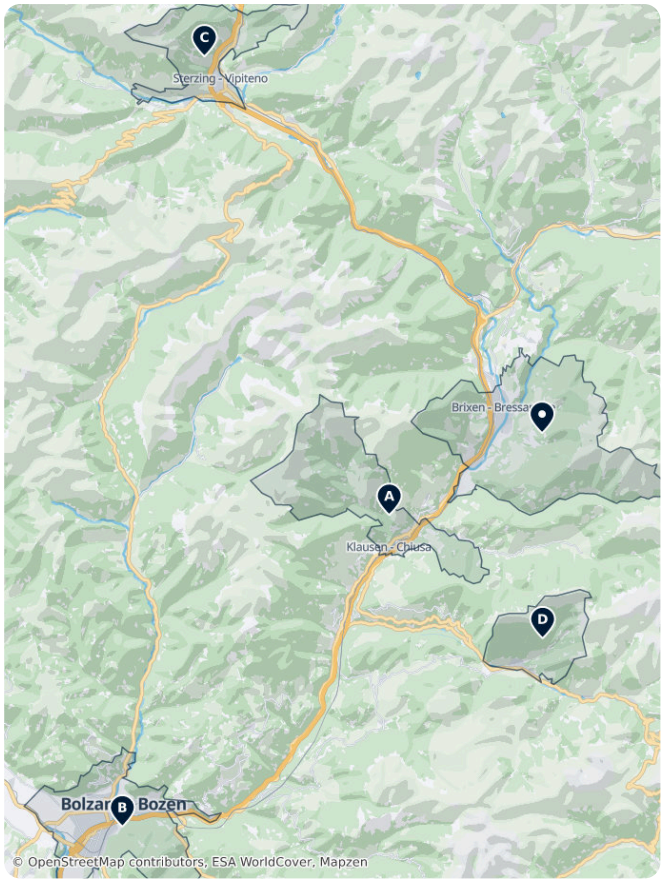
What to experience

- Ride the cable car up to Plose for the view over the Dolomites, then hike back down, or in winter, ski or sled down.
- Join a Törggelen outing in autumn: visit a farmhouse tavern in the hills around Brixen to taste the new wine with roasted chestnuts, an Eisack Valley tradition.
- Browse the wooden stalls of the Christmas market on Domplatz on a cold December evening.

Day trips

Brixen makes a good base for day trips into the wider Dolomites and Eisack valley.

- A Klausen — about 15 minutes by train. A small medieval town below a hilltop convent, known for its resident artists and antique shops.
- B Bolzano — about 35 minutes by train. South Tyrol's capital, home to the Ötzi the Iceman mummy at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology.
- C Vipiteno — about 35 minutes by train. A well-preserved medieval mining town near the Brenner Pass, with an arcaded main street.
- Alpe di Siusi and D Ortisei — about 45 to 60 minutes by car or bus. Europe's largest high-alpine meadow, part of the UNESCO-listed Dolomites, with some of the region's best hiking and skiing.



Getting there

- By air: the nearest airport is Bolzano Airport, about 40 km away, with a handful of scheduled domestic flights. Most international travelers instead fly into Innsbruck, about 1.5 to 2 hours away by train, or Verona, roughly 2.5 to 3 hours away including the transfer from the airport.
- By train: Brixen station sits directly on the Brenner railway line between Munich, Innsbruck, Bolzano, and Verona. Regional and long-distance trains call here several times a day.
- By bus: regional buses connect Brixen to the Dolomite valleys, including Alpe di Siusi and Val Gardena, and to neighboring towns. Long-distance coaches link to cities in Germany and Austria.

Getting around

- Public transit: regional and city buses cover Brixen and nearby villages. Buy tickets from the driver, at machines, or through the südtirolmobil app before boarding. Südtirol Mobil
- On foot: the old town is compact and largely pedestrian, easy to cover on foot in an hour or two.
- Cycling: Brixen sits on the Eisack Valley cycle path, a flat, well-signed route running the length of the valley toward Bolzano.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Brixen's old town is compact and largely pedestrian, with most sights within a 10-15 minute walk of each other.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The valley floor is flat, and the Eisack Valley cycle path runs directly through town, connecting to Bolzano and other Eisack Valley towns.

Driving

- Is a car worth it?: not needed for the old town itself, but useful for reaching the Dolomite valleys and smaller villages at your own pace.
- Parking: park at the Parkhaus Brixen at the edge of the old town rather than looking for street parking; pay by card or app.
- Restrictions: the historic center is largely closed to non-resident traffic. Follow signs to the public car parks around its edge.

Food & drink

Brixen's food leans Tyrolean rather than typically Italian: expect speck (cured ham), Knödel dumplings, and Schlutzkrapfen (stuffed pasta pockets) alongside pizza and pasta. The surrounding Eisack Valley is a well-regarded white wine region; look for Kerner, Sylvaner, and Gewürztraminer from small local producers.

For a meal, head to the arcaded lanes around Domplatz and Große Lauben, where old-town restaurants and cafés cluster. Saturday brings a fresh produce market to the same streets.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Pizza Margherita
Thin-crust pizza topped with tomato, mozzarella, and basil, invented in Naples and still best there.

DINNER

Spaghetti alla Carbonara
Pasta with egg, cured pork cheek (guanciale), pecorino cheese, and black pepper, a Roman classic.

Risotto alla Milanese
Creamy saffron-infused rice dish from Milan, often served alongside braised veal shank.

Lasagna · Lasagne al Forno
Layered baked pasta with ragu, bechamel, and cheese, a staple of Emilia-Romagna cooking.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Prosciutto and Cheese · Prosciutto e Formaggio
Cured ham paired with regional cheeses, a common antipasto plate found nationwide.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Gelato
Dense, slow-churned Italian ice cream, traditionally lower in fat and air than American-style ice cream.

Tiramisu · Tiramisù
Layered dessert of coffee-soaked ladyfingers and mascarpone cream, dusted with cocoa.

DRINKS

Espresso · Caffè
A short, strong shot of coffee drunk quickly, usually standing at a bar counter.

Wine · Vino
Italy is one of the world's largest wine producers, with regional styles from Piedmont's Barolo to Tuscany's Chianti.

Aperol Spritz
A bittersweet orange aperitif mixed with prosecco and soda water, a staple of the early-evening aperitivo.

Brixen – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Brixen is very safe for travelers. Petty crime is rare, even in peak season. Normal precautions apply: keep an eye on bags around the train station and in busy markets.

If hiking above town, especially up onto Plose, check the weather before setting out. Conditions on the massif change quickly, and sturdy boots are worth packing even in summer.

History

Brixen became a prince-bishopric in 1027, when Emperor Conrad II granted the local bishop control over the town and its surroundings. The bishops ruled here for more than 750 years, until the principality was dissolved in 1803. Hofburg Brixen was their seat, and today its halls hold Diocesan Museum. Cathedral of Brixen traces back to the same era, though the building seen today was rebuilt in Baroque style in the 18th century.

One local legend still marks the townscape: in 1551, an elephant given as a diplomatic gift passed through Brixen on its way to Vienna, and the inn where it stayed still carries its name today, the Hotel Elephant.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Italy at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F / Type L
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Italian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bressanone Essentials

Bressanone, the oldest town in Tyrol, served as a significant religious and political center for centuries. This selection highlights the city's ecclesiastical heritage, featuring the Baroque Cathedral and the Hofburg, the former residence of the Prince-Bishops. Beyond the historic center, the list includes the towering White Tower and the tranquil gardens of the bishop's palace. The surrounding Alpine landscape is represented by the Plose mountain range, offering panoramic views from the Rifugio Plose and the peak of Monte Forca Grande.





A Hofburg - Palazzo Vescovile

Former residence of the Prince-Bishops of Brixen from the 13th century until 1803. It now houses the Diocesan Museum, featuring extensive collections of religious art, historic Nativity scenes, and the cathedral treasury.

2 Piazza Palazzo Vescovile, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71485, 11.65561)



B Cathedral of Brixen

The Cathedral of Brixen is a cathedral in the city of Brixen, South Tyrol, Italy.

2 Piazza Duomo, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71587, 11.65769)

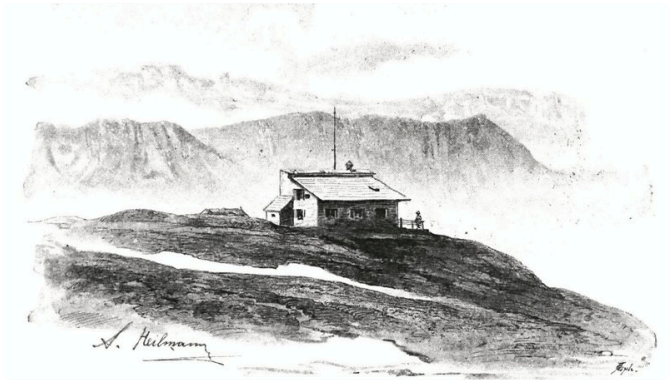
Mo–Su	07:00–17:45



C Pfarrkirche St. Michael - Parrocchia San Michele

Late Gothic parish church featuring a prominent tower and a Baroque interior. It stands adjacent to the cathedral and serves as the primary place of worship for the local parish.

3/A Piazza Parrocchia, Bressanone 39042, Italy (46.71637, 11.65762)



E Plosehütte - Rifugio Plose

High-altitude mountain hut located at 2,447 meters on the Plose mountain. It serves regional South Tyrolean cuisine and provides a base for hikers and skiers with views of the Dolomites.

297 Frazione Eores, 39042, Italy (46.69499, 11.73217)

plosehuette.com, +39 0472 521333

D Weißer Turm - Torre Bianca

A 72-meter-high Gothic bell tower belonging to the Parish Church of St. Michael. Recognized by its distinctive white color and four corner turrets, it is a landmark of the city's skyline.

6 Via Torre Bianca, Bressanone 39042, Italy (46.71655, 11.65785)

F Hofburggarten - Giardino Vescovile

Historic formal gardens adjacent to the Bishop's Palace, featuring geometric flower beds, a vegetable garden, and an orchard, all enclosed by medieval walls.

Bressanone 39042, Italy (46.71387, 11.65655)



G Klarissen-Kloster

Established in the 13th century, this was the first Poor Clare monastery in the German-speaking world. The complex includes a church and cloister dedicated to Saint Elizabeth.

27 Via Roncato, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71141, 11.65825)



H Franziskaner-Kloster

Franciscan monastery complex connected to the Poor Clare convent. It features a Gothic cloister decorated with 15th-century frescoes.

25/D Via Roncato, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71172, 11.65879)



I Johanneskapelle

A Romanesque chapel located in the southwest corner of the cathedral cloister. It is noted for its well-preserved 13th and 14th-century frescoes depicting biblical scenes.

2 Via Hartwig, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71540, 11.65777)



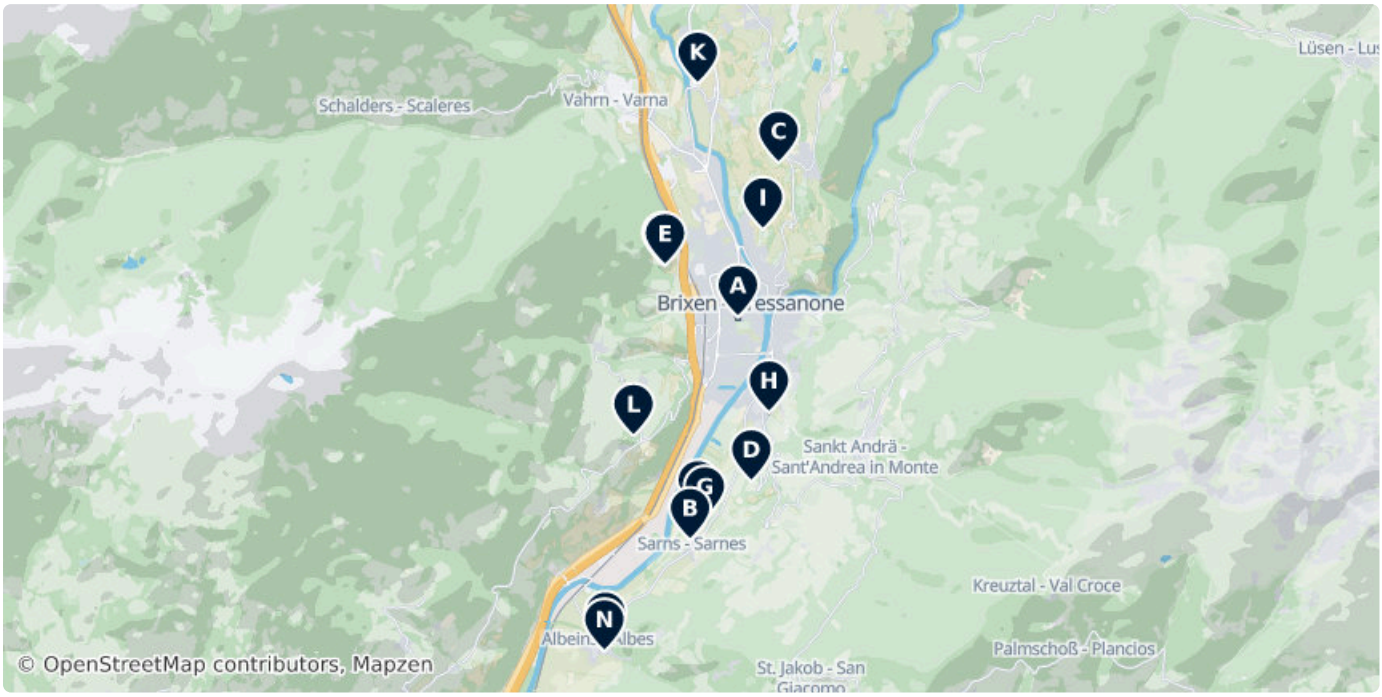
J Großer Gabler - Monte Forca Grande

The highest peak in the Plose massif, reaching an elevation of 2,576 meters. It offers 360-degree panoramic views of the Dolomites and the main chain of the Alps.

(46.69025, 11.76300)

Historical Sites & Castles

This collection showcases the architectural and archaeological history of the Bressanone region. It features the Hofburg, the former seat of prince-bishops, alongside numerous medieval fortifications such as Schloss Kampan and the 13th-century Pfefferburg ruins. The list also includes religious heritage sites like the parish church of Sarnes and significant prehistoric landmarks, including the cup-marked rock carvings at Tschötscher Heide and the Hexenrutsche archaeological site.





A Hofburg - Palazzo Vescovile

Former residence of the prince-bishops until 1803 and the bishops of the Diocese of Brixen until 1973. It now houses the Diocesan Museum.

2 Piazza Palazzo Vescovile, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71485, 11.65561)



B St. Sebastian - S. Sebastiano

Roman Catholic parish church located in the hamlet of Sarnes.

9/A Frazione Sarnes, Sarnes 39042, Italy
(46.68859, 11.64738)



C Hexenrutsche

Prehistoric archaeological site featuring rock carvings, traditionally known as the "Witch's Slide."

39042, Italy (46.73302, 11.66260)

D Schloss Ratzötz - Castel Razez

A historic castle and manor house located south of Bressanone.

(Unnamed Road), 39042, Italy (46.69551, 11.65793)

E Burgruine Pfefferburg / Pfeffersberg 13.Jhd

13th-century castle ruins situated on the Pfeffersberg slope overlooking the Bressanone basin.

39042, Italy (46.72096, 11.64307)

F Bergfried Pfefferburg

The preserved keep of the medieval Pfefferburg castle ruins.

39042, Italy (46.72103, 11.64275)

G Schloss Pallaus - Castel Pallaus

A historic castle and noble residence located in the vicinity of Bressanone.

39042, Italy (46.69115, 11.64994)

H Karlsburg

Historic castle and residential building.

8 Salita alla Chiesa, Bressanone 39042, Italy (46.70361, 11.66097)

I Hanberg

Medieval castle and manor house.

(46.72519, 11.65990)

J Schloss Kampan

A medieval castle and manor house, notable for its well-preserved architectural features.

39042, Italy (46.69185, 11.64873)

K Engelsburg

A distinctive circular building near Novacella Abbey, originally built as a chapel and defensive structure.

(Unnamed Road), Novacella 39040, Italy (46.74234, 11.64870)

L Tschötscher Heide - Felszeichnungen/Incisioni rupestri

Archaeological site on the Tschötsch plateau featuring prehistoric rock carvings and cup marks.

39042, Italy (46.70085, 11.63764)

Ⓜ Hl. Hermagoras und Fortunat - SS. Ermagora e Fortunato

Parish church in the village of Albes, representing local religious heritage.

2 Frazione Albes, Albes 39042, Italy (46.67637, 11.63283)

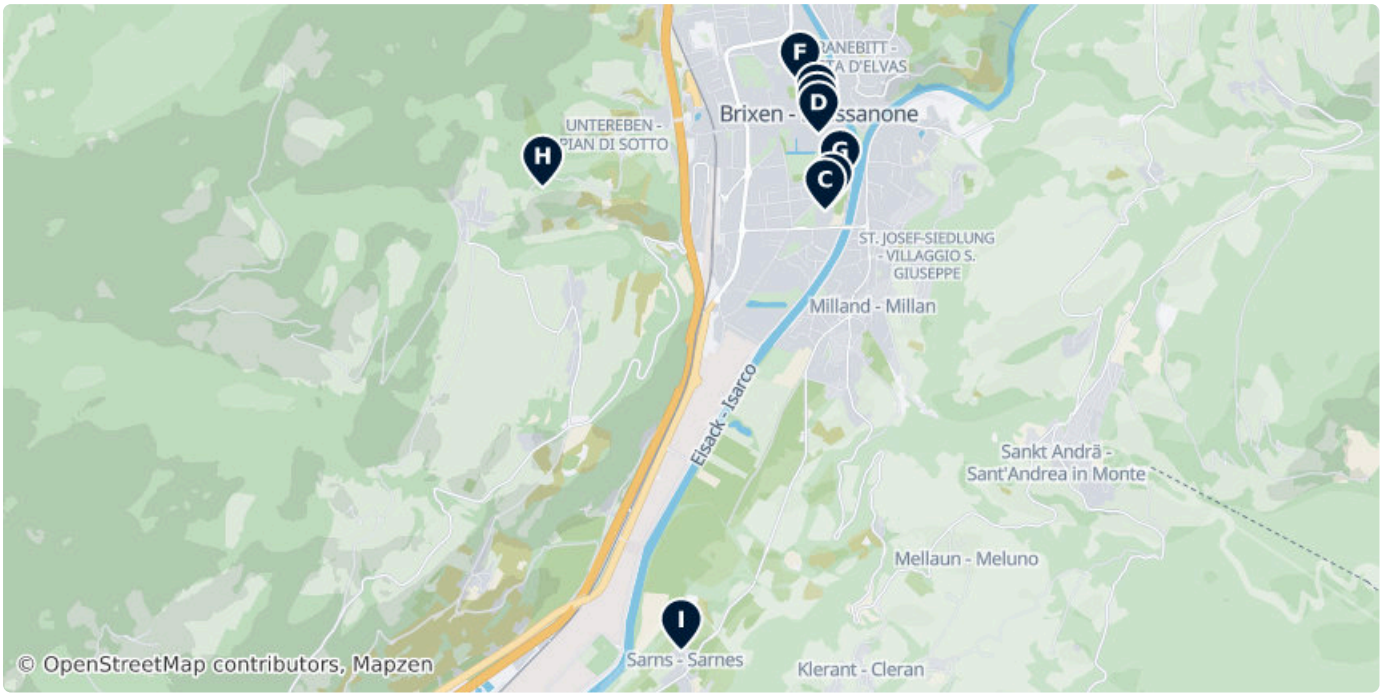
Ⓝ Hl. Margareth - S. Margherita

A Roman Catholic church located in Albes, showcasing regional ecclesiastical architecture.

14 Frazione Albes, Albes 39042, Italy (46.67546, 11.63265)

Religious Sites in Brixen

As the oldest town in Tyrol and a former Prince-Bishopric, Brixen features a dense concentration of ecclesiastical architecture. This collection highlights the Baroque Cathedral with its expansive frescoes, the Gothic Parish Church of St. Michael known for its landmark 'White Tower,' and centuries-old monastic complexes. These sites showcase a range of styles from Romanesque foundations to elaborate Baroque redesigns, reflecting the town's long-standing role as a spiritual and cultural center in the Alps.





A Cathedral of Brixen

The Cathedral of Brixen is a cathedral in the city of Brixen, South Tyrol, Italy.

2 Piazza Duomo, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71587, 11.65769)

Mo–Su 07:00–17:45



B Pfarrkirche St. Michael - Parrocchia San Michele

Gothic parish church featuring the iconic 72-meter 'White Tower.' The interior contains significant Baroque elements and late-Gothic sculptures.

3/A Piazza Parrocchia, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71637, 11.65762)



C Klarissen-Kloster

Established in the 13th century and dedicated to St. Elisabeth, this was the first foundation of the Order of Poor Clares in the German-speaking world.

27 Via Roncato, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71141, 11.65825)



D Johanneskapelle

Located at the southwest corner of the Cathedral cloister, this chapel is noted for its well-preserved medieval frescoes.

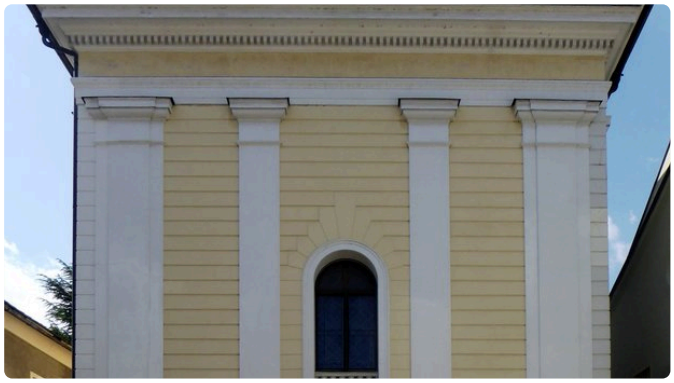
2 Via Hartwig, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71540, 11.65777)



E Franziskaner-Kloster

A historic monastery complex featuring a Gothic church and a cloister decorated with 15th-century frescoes.

25/D Via Roncato, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71172, 11.65879)



F Kirche der Congregatio Jesu

A Roman Catholic church dedicated to St. Joseph, serving the local convent of the Congregatio Jesu.

19/A Via Mercato Vecchio, Bressanone 39042, Italy
(46.71801, 11.65636)



G Kapuzinerkirche St. Katharina

A 17th-century Capuchin monastery church dedicated to St. Catherine, featuring the simple architectural style typical of the order.

2 Vicolo dei Cappuccini, Bressanone 39042, Italy (46.71292, 11.65941)



H St. Cyrillus - San Cirillus

A hilltop church near the village of Tils, dedicated to St. Cyril of Thessaloniki and situated along historic hiking paths.

39042, Italy (46.71263, 11.63690)



I St. Sebastian - S. Sebastiano

The parish church of Sarnes, recognized as a protected heritage site within the municipality of Brixen.

9/A Frazione Sarnes, Sarnes 39042, Italy (46.68859, 11.64738)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Hofburg - Palazzo Vescovile — "Emperors from the Hofburg Brixen by :de:Hans Reichle. "Graf Sigopert" on the..." by Wolfgang Moroder, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Cathedral of Brixen — "Parrocchia di Bressanone - interno" by Ugo franchini, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Pfarrkirche St. Michael - Parrocchia San Michele — "This media shows the cultural heritage monument with the number 14186 in South..." by Buchhändler, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Plosehütte - Rifugio Plose — "Plosehütte aus Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins..." by Anton Paul Heilmann, Public domain
- Klarissen-Kloster — "St. Elisabeth - Brixen" by Leitzsche, CC0
- Franziskaner-Kloster — "Brixen, Südtirol: Franziskanerkloster" by Oliver Abels, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Johanneskapelle — "St. Johannes im Kreuzgang in Brixen: romanisches Fresko die alttestamentliche..." by Uoaei1, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Großer Gabler - Monte Forca Grande — "Monte Gabler" by LLorenzi, CC-BY-SA-3.0
- Hofburg - Palazzo Vescovile — "Emperors from the Hofburg Brixen by :de:Hans Reichle. "Graf Sigopert" on the..." by Wolfgang Moroder, CC BY-SA 3.0
- St. Sebastian - S. Sebastiano — "This media shows the cultural heritage monument with the number 14318 in South..." by Leitzsche, CC0
- Hexenrutsche — "Blick auf Elvas bei Brixen" by Gliwi, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Schloss Ratzötz - Castel Razez — "Highvill Astana Apartment" by booking.com
- Cathedral of Brixen — "Parrocchia di Bressanone - interno" by Ugo franchini, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Pfarrkirche St. Michael - Parrocchia San Michele — "This media shows the cultural heritage monument with the number 14186 in South..." by Buchhändler, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Klarissen-Kloster — "St. Elisabeth - Brixen" by Leitzsche, CC0
- Johanneskapelle — "St. Johannes im Kreuzgang in Brixen: romanisches Fresko die alttestamentliche..." by Uoaei1, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Franziskaner-Kloster — "Brixen, Südtirol: Franziskanerkloster" by Oliver Abels, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Kirche der Congregatio Jesu — "Brixen, Ostseite der Kirche der Congregatio Jesu, dem heiligen Josef geweiht." by Renardo la vulpo, CC0
- Kapuzinerkirche St. Katharina — "Kapuzinerkirche - Brixen" by Leitzsche, CC0
- St. Cyrillus - San Cirillus — "Brixen, Südtirol: Innenansicht der Kirche St. Cyrill nahe Tils" by SBT, CC BY-SA 3.0
- St. Sebastian - S. Sebastiano — "This media shows the cultural heritage monument with the number 14318 in South..." by Leitzsche, CC0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 9, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.