

Cortina d'Ampezzo

Veneto · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Cortina d'Ampezzo sits in a wide, sunny valley high in the Dolomites of northern Italy. Pale rock peaks — the Tofane, the Cristallo, and the Pomagagnon — rise on every side. It is one of Italy's most famous mountain resorts, known for skiing, smart shops, and easy access to dramatic scenery. Cortina hosted the 1956 Winter Olympics and co-hosts the 2026 Games with Milan.

The town itself is small and easy to walk. Its landmark is the parish church of Santi Filippo e Giacomo, whose tall bell tower stands over the pedestrian main street, Corso Italia. Cortina suits travelers who want mountains with comfort — good hotels, cafés, and high mountain huts rather than rough camping. It is busy and stylish in winter and summer, and much quieter in between.

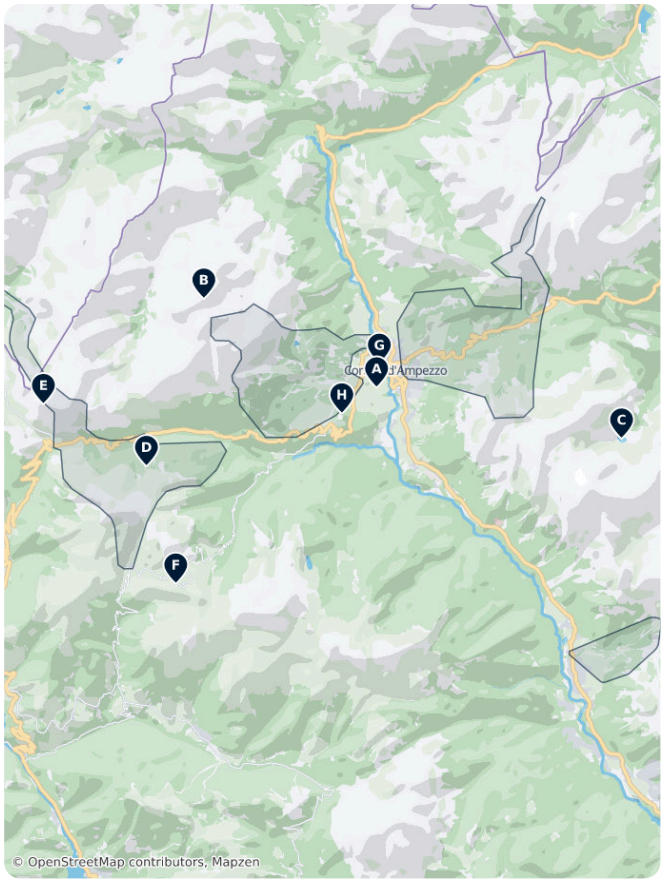
When to visit

Cortina has two main seasons. Winter, from December to March, is for skiing: cold, snowy, and short on daylight. Summer, from late June to September, is mild and green, and best for hiking, cable cars, and the mountain huts. Late spring and late autumn are quiet, when many lifts and huts close and the weather is unsettled. For a headline event, the women's Alpine Ski World Cup races run on the Tofana slopes each January and draw big crowds. Cortina also hosted the February 2026 Winter Olympics, so ski-season demand and prices are high.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	1° / 6° Feels like -3°	-8° / -17°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	2° / 9° Feels like -1°	-7° / -18°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	-3° / -13°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 18°	1° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	16° / 22°	6° / 0°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	21° / 27°	10° / 3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for hiking	22° / 27°	11° / 5°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	22° / 27°	12° / 6°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	18° / 23°	7° / 1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	13° / 19°	4° / -2°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	7° / 14°	-1° / -10°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	2° / 7° Feels like -2°	-6° / -16°	Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights



A Cortina d'Ampezzo is the heart of it all — a smart resort town with a car-free main street for shopping and people-watching, ringed by ski slopes in winter. West of town, B Tofane is reached by the Freccia nel Cielo cable car and has some of the area's best views and ski runs. C Lago di Sorapis is a bright turquoise lake below the Sorapis peaks, reached by a popular mountain hike of about two hours each way, with some exposed, cable-secured sections. D Cinque Torri is a cluster of rock towers and an open-air World War I museum, with trenches you can still walk. A cable car climbs E Lagazuoi, where restored wartime tunnels run through the mountain to a terrace above the passes. F Passo Giau is one of the most scenic drives near town, a high pass with wide views of the surrounding peaks. The G Museo Etnografico Regole d'Ampezzo explains the Regole d'Ampezzo, the old communal land system that still governs the valley's forests and pastures. H Ossario di Pocol is a hilltop war memorial above town, holding the remains of thousands of soldiers and giving a wide view over the valley.

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What to experience

Beyond looking at the peaks, Cortina is a place to get among them:

- Ski the Olympic slopes. In winter, ski the Tofana runs that host 2026 Olympic alpine racing, plus the many other pistes around Cortina on the Dolomiti Superski network.
- Climb a via ferrata. The peaks here hold some of the original iron-rung climbing routes, many built during World War I; guided outings suit fit beginners.
- Walk the mountain war front. Guided routes lead through the tunnels and trenches on Lagazuoi and Cinque Torri, where armies fought at altitude a century ago.
- Watch the enrosadira. On clear evenings the pale rock walls glow pink and red at sunset; the terraces above town give the best view of it.

Day trips

Cortina makes a good base for exploring the wider Dolomites. Good options, from closest out:

- A San Vito di Cadore — about 15 minutes south by car or bus; a smaller, quieter village under Monte Antelao, with lakes and easy walks.
- Lago di Misurina — about 30 minutes by car or bus; a calm alpine lake and the gateway to the Tre Cime di Lavaredo, the area's most famous peaks.
- Tre Cime di Lavaredo — about 1 hour by car to the toll road, then a walk; three iconic rock towers with a classic loop hike around them.
- Alta Badia — about 45 minutes over the Falzarego and Valparola passes; a Ladin-speaking valley with hiking below the Sella group.
- Lago di Braies — about 50 minutes by car; a famous turquoise lake ringed by peaks, best visited early before the crowds.



Getting there

- By air: The nearest airport with regular flights is Venice Marco Polo (VCE), about 160 km away and 2 to 2.5 hours by car or bus. Treviso (TSF) and Innsbruck in Austria are alternatives. Cortina has no airport of its own.
- By train: Cortina has no train station — the old line closed in the 1960s. The nearest railheads are Calalzo di Cadore to the south and Dobbiaco to the north, each linked to Cortina by bus in about an hour.
- By bus: Direct coaches run from Venice, Venice airport, and Bolzano; several are express services aimed at skiers in winter. Long-distance buses stop at the Cortina bus station.

Getting around

- Public transit: The town is small enough to cross on foot. Local buses link the centre with outlying hamlets, cable-car stations, and trailheads; buy tickets on board or at the bus station. In summer, extra hiking buses reach trailheads not served by regular lines. See Dolomitibus for routes.
- Cable cars: The Freccia nel Cielo and Faloria cable cars and several chairlifts carry visitors up to the peaks and ski slopes. In winter a Dolomiti Superski pass covers the lifts.
- Taxi: Taxis and private transfers are available but costly; book ahead in peak weeks.
- On foot and cycling: The centre is flat and walkable. Cycling is popular in summer on the valley path and the mountain passes, though the climbs are demanding.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact town centre is flat and easy to explore on foot; sights outside town need a bus, cable car, or car.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

A valley cycle path is pleasant in summer, but the surrounding mountain passes are steep and demanding.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Yes, for reaching the passes, lakes, and trailheads around Cortina, where buses are limited. In the town itself you do not need one.
- Mountain passes: The scenic roads over Falzarego, Giau, and Tre Croci are the main way to see the area. They are steep, winding, and busy in peak season, and can need winter tyres or chains in snow.
- Parking: Central car parks and paid street zones sit near Corso Italia and fill in peak weeks. Trailhead and pass car parks charge fees and fill early on summer weekends.

Food & drink

Cooking here is Alpine and Ladin more than classic Italian. Look for casunziei (beetroot- or spinach-filled ravioli with butter and poppy seeds), barley soup, canederli (bread dumplings), and game dishes, followed by strudel. Many mountain huts serve hearty lunches with a view, and a meal at altitude is part of a visit here.

For eating in town, the pedestrian Corso Italia and the streets around it hold most of the restaurants, cafés, and pastry shops — this is where to browse. Cortina is an upscale resort, so prices run high, especially in peak weeks.

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.

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Safety & health

Cortina is very safe, with little crime beyond the odd theft in crowded lifts or car parks. The real risks here are mountain ones: fast weather changes, afternoon thunderstorms, cold at altitude, and hard trails. Check the forecast, carry warm and waterproof layers, and start hikes early. For via ferrata and glacier routes, use proper gear or hire a guide. The Europe-wide number 112 covers mountain rescue. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

For centuries the Ampezzo valley governed itself through the Regole d'Ampezzo, a system of shared land and forest that still exists today; the Museo Etnografico Regole d'Ampezzo tells its story. The valley belonged to Austria-Hungary until 1918 and became Italian only after World War I. That war was fought in these mountains: the front ran along the peaks above town, and you can still see tunnels and trenches at Lagazuoi and Cinque Torri. Many of the dead lie at Ossario di Pocol. In 1956 Cortina hosted the Winter Olympics, and the ice stadium and ski jump from those Games still stand; in 2026 the Games returned to the town, seventy years later.

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

Walks

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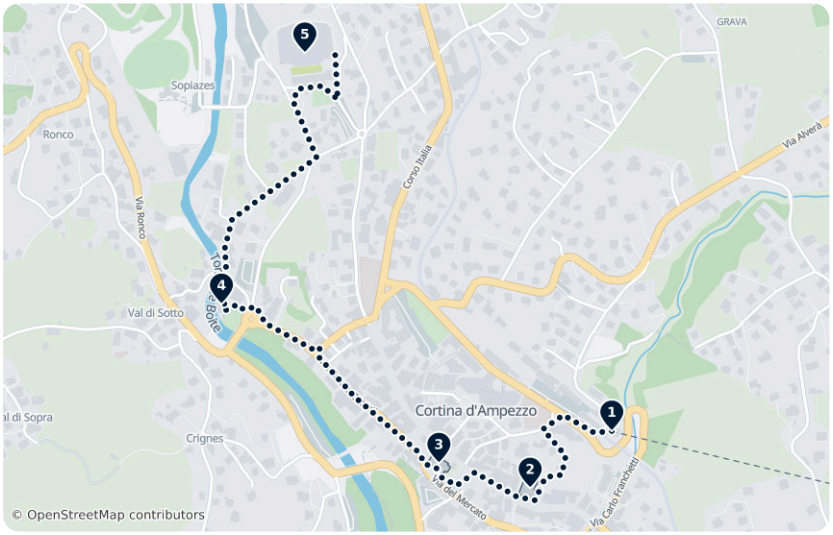
Cortina d'Ampezzo: Queen of the Dolomites

42min · 1.8 km · 5 stops



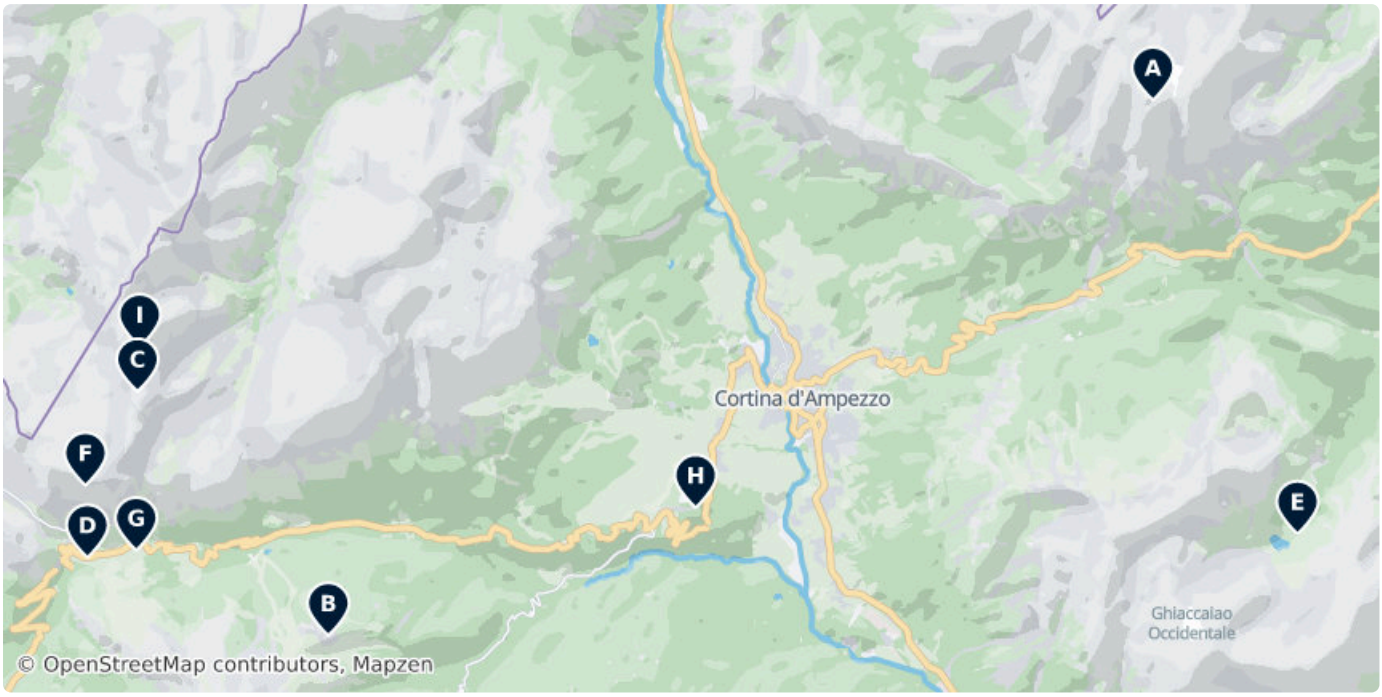
1. The Faloria Cable Car
2. La Cooperativa di Cortina
3. Basilica dei Santi Filippo e Giacomo
4. Museo Etnografico Regole d'Ampezzo
5. Stadio Olimpico del Ghiaccio

Cortina d'Ampezzo, the 'Queen of the Dolomites,' is an alpine resort cradled by some of the most dramatic peaks in the Alps and shaped by two Winter Olympics. This gentle walk starts at the Faloria cable-car station on the eastern edge of town and follows Corso Italia through the historic centre — past the cooperative that has served the valley since 1893, the bell-towered basilica, and the Ampezzo people's own museum — before finishing at the 1956 Olympic ice stadium. Under two kilometres, on level streets.



Dolomites Highlights

This list features nine key locations in the Dolomites near Cortina d'Ampezzo, including towering peaks like Monte Cristallo and Lagazuoi, notable mountain passes such as Falzarego, historic alpine huts offering regional cuisine, and challenging via ferrata routes. Each site highlights distinctive geological formations, alpine architecture, or strategic mountain routes with panoramic views.





A Monte Cristallo

Highest peak of the Cristallo group, reaching 3,221 meters.

32043, Italy (46.57545, 12.20054)



B Cinque Torri

Cinque Torri comprise a small rock formation belonging to Nuvolao group in the Dolomiti Ampezzane north-west of San Vito di Cadore and...

32043, Italy (46.50908, 12.05187)



C Lagazuoi

Lagazuoi is a mountain in the Dolomites of northern Italy, lying at an altitude of 2,835 metres, about 18 kilometres southwest by road from...

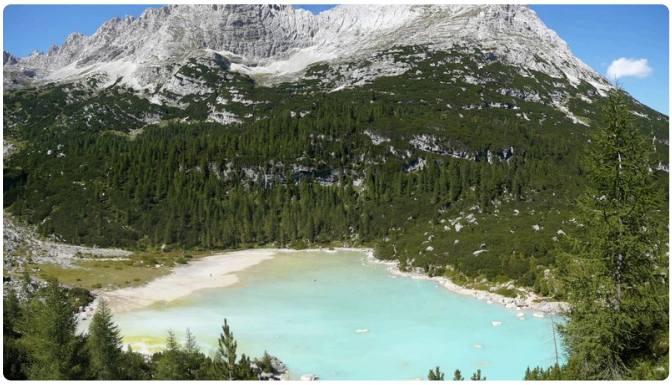
32043, Italy (46.53932, 12.01747)



D Falzarego Pass

The Falzarego Pass is a high mountain pass in the province of Belluno in Italy.

SR48, 32043, Italy (46.51875, 12.00843)



E Rifugio Vandelli

Alpine hut managed by the Venice section of the Italian Alpine Club.

Cortina d'Ampezzo (46.52167, 12.22662)

F Rifugio Lagazuòi

Mountain hut and restaurant located near Lagazuoi peak.

32043, Italy (46.52770, 12.00808)

G Rifugio Col Gallina

Alpine hut offering regional cuisine and mountain hospitality.

(Unnamed Road), 32043, Italy (46.51964, 12.01722)

H Belvedere

Scenic viewpoint overlooking surrounding Dolomite peaks.

(46.52494, 12.11810)

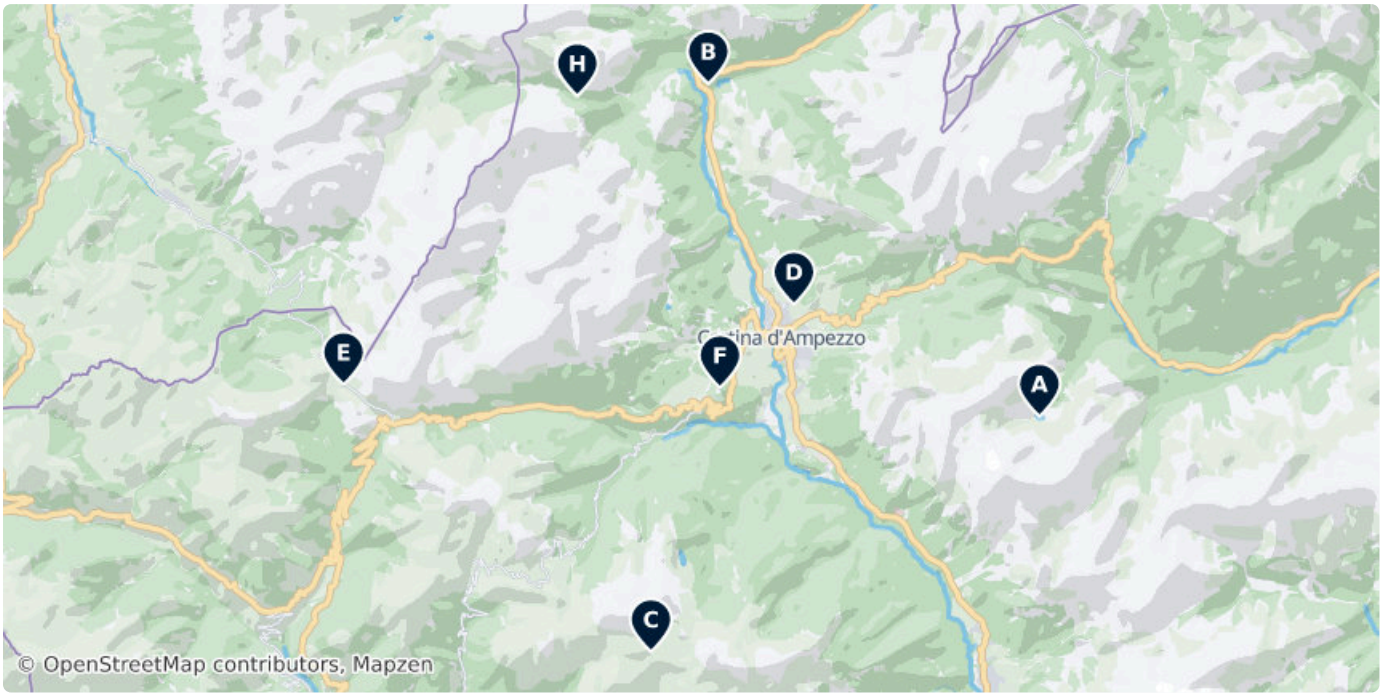
I Via Ferrata Tomaselli Klettersteig

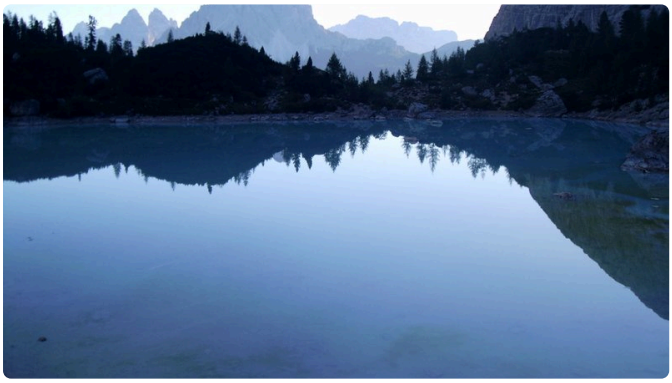
Via ferrata route providing secured climbing access on rocky terrain.

(46.54485, 12.01785)

Hidden Alpine Treasures

This collection highlights lesser-known sites around Cortina d'Ampezzo, including Sorapiss Lake with its striking alpine setting, medieval ruins like Castello di Botestagno, and archaeological remains such as the Mesolithic burial site. It also features historical chapels, military shrines, and natural landmarks like the Cascate Sbarco de Fanes waterfalls, offering a blend of cultural heritage and natural beauty in the Dolomites.





A Sorapiss Lake

Sorapiss, also referred to as Sorapis or Punta Sorapiss, is a mountain in the Dolomites within the Veneto region of northern Italy.

32043, Italy (46.52055, 12.22324)



B Castello di Botestagno

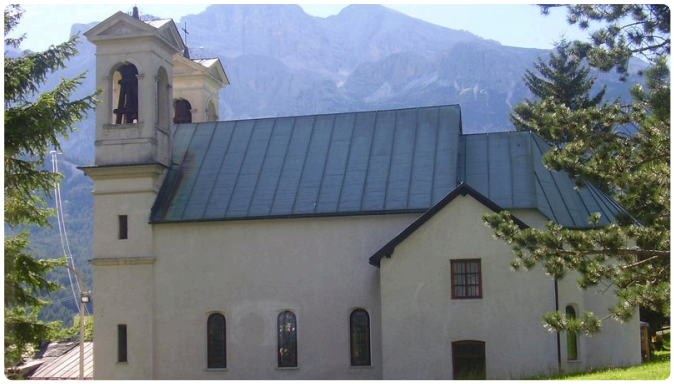
Castello di Botestagno is a ruined medieval fort in the comune of Cortina d'Ampezzo in the southern Alps of the Veneto region of Northern...

32043, Italy (46.59661, 12.11298)

C Sepoltura mesolitica

Mesolithic archaeological burial site evidencing early human presence in the Dolomites.

(46.46665, 12.09387)



D Cappella della Beata Vergine di Lourdes

Cappella della Beata Vergine di Lourdes is a Roman Catholic chapel located in Cortina d'Ampezzo's Grava di Sotto neighborhood.

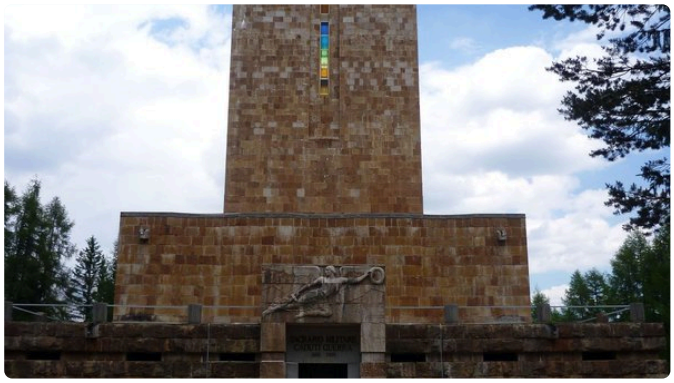
33 Località Grava di Sopra, 32043, Italy (46.54619, 12.14150)



E Tre Sassi Fort

Tre Sassi fort is a fortress and museum on the road to the Passo di Valparola, within the comune of Cortina d'Ampezzo in the southern Alps...

(Unnamed Road), 32043, Italy (46.52781, 11.99150)



F Sacrario militare di Pocol

Sacrario militare di Pocol is a cemetery and shrine near the Falzarego Pass, in the locality of Pocol in the comune of Cortina d'Ampezzo in...

Località Pocol, Pocol 32043, Italy (46.52713, 12.11683)

G Cascate Sbarco de Fanes

A natural waterfall located within the Dolomite mountain range.

(46.59407, 12.06904)



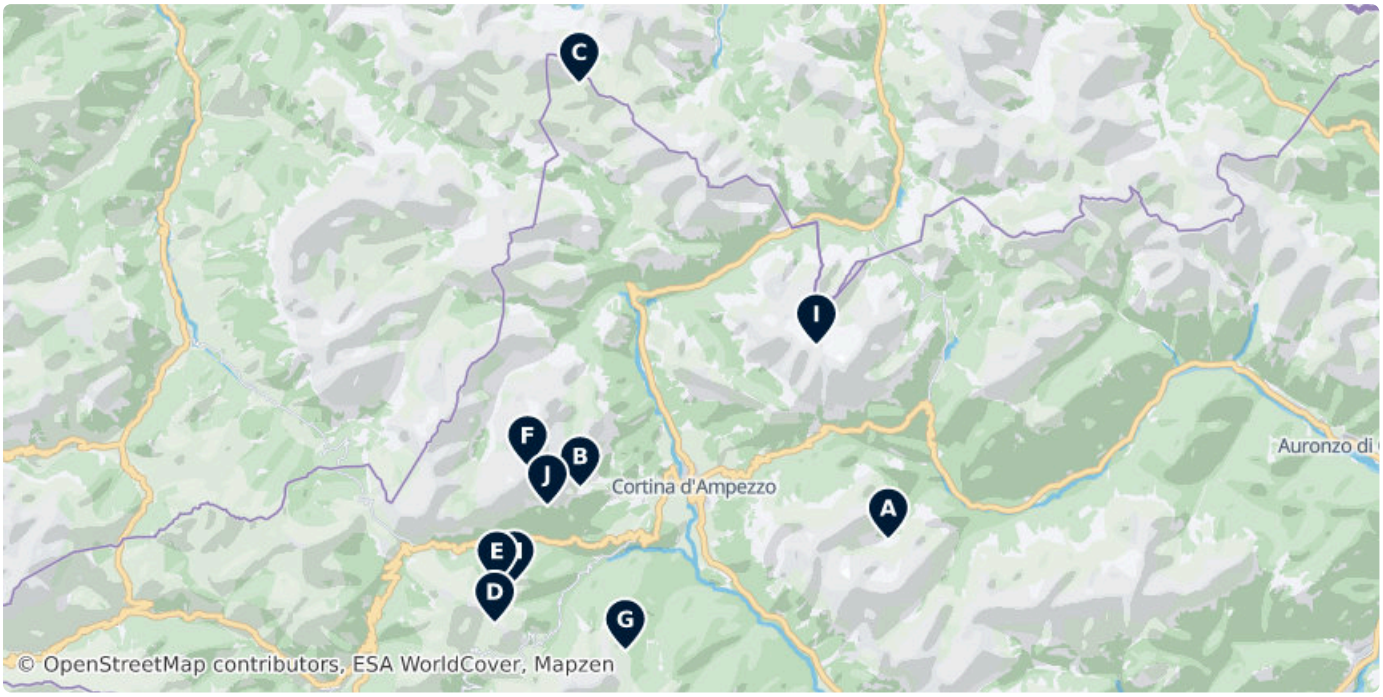
H Cascate Sbarco de Fanes

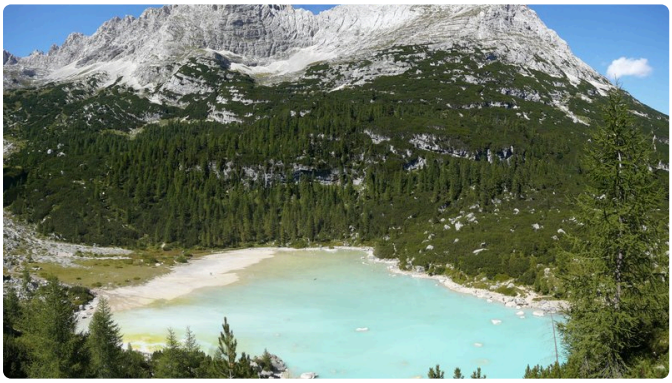
A natural waterfall located within the Dolomite mountain range.

32043, Italy (46.59389, 12.06935)

Alpine Mountain Huts

This collection features ten alpine huts and shelters in the Dolomites around Cortina d'Ampezzo, showcasing historic mountain refuges operated by the Club Alpino Italiano and private entities. These huts offer access to key mountain groups such as the Tofane, Nuvolau, Cristallo, and Croda da Lago, often combining traditional alpine architecture with amenities like restaurants and wi-fi, set amidst dramatic Dolomite landscapes.





A Rifugio Vandelli

Alpine hut of the Venice section of the Club Alpino Italiano, located near Sorapiss mountain.

Cortina d'Ampezzo (46.52167, 12.22662)



B Rifugio Duca D'Aosta

Located at the base of the Tofane group, this hut offers free internet access and wi-fi.

Cortina d'Ampezzo (46.53811, 12.08503)

rifugioducadaosta.com, +39 0436 2780



C Rifugio Biella - Seekofelhütte

Mountain refuge in the Pragser Dolomites, also known as Seekofelhütte in German.

32043, Italy (46.66563, 12.08458)



D Rifugio Nuvolau

Managed by the Cortina d'Ampezzo section of the Club Alpino Italiano, situated in the Nuvolau group.

32043, Italy (46.49526, 12.04573)

rifugionuvolau.it, +390436867938



E Rifugio Scoiattoli

32043, Italy (46.50809, 12.04677)

rifugi... , +39 0436 867939;+39 0333 814 6960

F Camillo Giussani

Club Alpino Italiano hut in the Cortina d'Ampezzo section, located in the Dolomite mountain area.

Cortina d'Ampezzo (46.54466, 12.06081)

rifugiogiussani.com, +39 0436 5740

G Rifugio Croda da Lago

Also known as Rifugio Gianni Palmieri, this shelter includes a restaurant and is managed by the Cortina d'Ampezzo CAI section.

32043, Italy (46.48651, 12.10575)

crodadalago.it

H Rifugio Cinque Torri

Privately operated refuge in the Nuvolau group within the Belluno province.

32043 Cortina D'Ampezzo (46.50820, 12.05474)

rifugio5torri.it, +39 0436 2902

I Capanna Guido Lorenzi

Private alpine hut situated in the Cristallo group above Cortina d'Ampezzo.

32041, Italy (46.58303, 12.19358)

J Rifugio Angelo Dibona

Privately managed shelter located in the Tofane mountain group.

Cortina d'Ampezzo (46.53240, 12.06991)

rifugiodibona.it, +39 0436 860294

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