

LAGO DI LEDRO

Lake Ledro is one of the most beautiful and cleanest in Trentino, located at 650m above sea level. Clear waters, with an iridescent turquoise color, in which to dive on hot summer days or where to practice fishing, sailing and other water sports. Thanks to its bathing waters that reach 24 ° in summer, Lake Ledro is ideal for practicing different sports including canoeing, windsurfing, sailing, swimming and fishing. One of the 4 beaches of Lake Ledro is animal friendly to bring your dog to the beach. The perimeter of Lake Ledro is about 10 km and the walk around Lake Ledro is one of the most popular for beauty, distance and height difference (10 km to be covered in about a couple of hours with a minimum difference in height). Apart from the stretch from Molina to Pur, along which one passes on the municipal road, the rest of the route is on a dirt track by the lake. In Mezzolago you cross the Strada Statale to avoid traffic and pass through the very characteristic center of Mezzolago. It is also one of the favorite routes for runners and bicycles. Lake Ledro is also ideal for water sports. The Circolo Vela Lago di Ledro is located in Pieve, which in addition to hosting international sailing regattas, organizes sailing courses for children aged 8 to 15 throughout the summer. Canoe - Kayak Storo - Ledro, based at the beach of Besta in Molina, organizes courses and individual lessons, as well as renting equipment. Fishing lovers will find a suitable environment, rich in fish fauna. Among the fish commonly caught in the lake we find trout, perch, bleak, whitefish, tench, pike and some eel. To fish in the lake it is necessary to have a regular fishing permit.



BEACHES

PIEVE DI LEDRO

The public beach of Pieve di Ledro is located on the north-west shore of Lake Ledro; it is divided into three areas and has various services including a beach volleyball court, ample parking, bars and pizzerias, a children's playground and a mini golf course.



MOLINA DI LEDRO

The public beach of Molina di Ledro, in the locality of Besta, is the largest and the most exposed to the sun; it has an extensive green lawn where you can relax and sunbathe, a beach volleyball court and tennis courts, toilets, ample parking and a bar.

MEZZOLAGO

The public beach of Mezzolago, on the north shore of Lake Ledro and a stone's throw from the town, offers the opportunity to relax in the large lawn with a playground for children and picnic tables and on the beach with an adjoining floating dock.

PUR

The public beach of Pur is the quietest in the valley and is located on the southern shore of Lake Ledro; it has a large lawn with a children's playground, free parking, a nearby bar and pizzeria. Dogs are allowed on another nearby beach.



ANIMAL FRIENDLY



Part of the Pur beach has been delimited and dedicated to our 4-legged friends who will be able to enjoy the summer tan and take a nice bath with their owners. Furthermore, along the promenade around the lake, dispensers with bags for the collection of manure were placed. When the dog dirties, cleaning is an act of civility.

THE ORIGINS OF THE LAKE

The origin of Lake Ledro is due to a morainic barrier dating back to the fourth ice age. Since 1929, its level has been influenced by the energy needs of the Riva del Garda Hydroelectric Plant which uses its waters which, channeled into a 6 km long tunnel dug into the mountainside, descend towards Riva del Garda.

It is fed by numerous springs, generally underwater, by the Massangla, Assat di Pur and Assat di Pieve streams, which however are dry most of the year. In addition to the prestigious landscape that surrounds it, Lake Ledro is famous for the discovery of an extensive area of stilts, located on the eastern shore of the lake. This discovery, discovered on the occasion of the strong lowering of the lake waters for the construction of the hydroelectric power plant, is the most important in Europe for extension, wealth of artefacts and state of conservation.

Since June 2011 it has become a UNESCO World Heritage Site



STILT HOUSES

The Museum

The Museo delle Palafitte del Lago di Ledro is the beating heart of ReLED, the museum network of Valle di Ledro. It is also part of the territorial network to which MUSE, the Trento Science Museum, belongs.

The structure of the museum dates back to the Seventies. From a simple container of finds, the museum has been able to transform itself into a real museum center. The museum now presents itself as a showcase of shop windows, a space in constant dialogue with the outside.

Archaeological research was immediately added to the exhibition activity. Starting from the nineties, teaching and the program of summer activities have been added.

The archaeological area

In 1929, the new Riva del Garda hydroelectric plant began to draw water from Lake Ledro. With the partial lowering of the waters, some poles dating back to the Bronze Age came to light. Thus began the history of the Museo delle Palafitte del Lago di Ledro. Over the years, more than ten thousand poles and many artifacts have been found, among which the remains of a wooden canoe stand out.



The history of human settlement in the Ledro Valley goes back thousands of years. Already 4,000 years ago, during the Bronze Age, the shores of Lake Ledro housed a pile-dwelling village. In the last century, more than 10,000 poles have been found which have earned the archaeological site of Lake Ledro recognition by UNESCO. The museum and the village recreate the atmosphere of the pile-dwelling settlement of Lake Ledro and make the visitor relive the life of our ancestors.

The village

Saba, the wise shaman, Bacmor, the brave warrior, Massangla, the sweet girl, and Otzi, the unknown traveler, are the inhabitants of the pile-dwelling village on the shores of Lake Ledro. To the shaman's hut, a true symbol of Lake Ledro, three other huts have been added since 2006, that of the village chief, that of the artisans and that of farmers, fishermen and hunters. After 4,000 years, the stilts of Lake Ledro have come back to life. The main function of the village is the recontextualization of the finds contained in the museum to help the visitor get a concrete idea of life in prehistory. The village is also the backdrop to summer activities and educational work that takes place throughout the year.



LA FUCINA DE LE BROCHE

AT THE FUCINA DE LE BROCHE IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE HOW SHOE NAILS WERE FORGED, WHICH UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST CENTURY WERE USED TO PROTECT THE SOLES. FOR THE LEDRO VALLEY IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT ACTIVITY THAT EVEN ALLOWED THE PEOPLE OF LEDRO TO RETURN FROM THE FRONT DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND TO AVOID LEAVING AS A SOLDIER DURING THE SECOND. AND IN MOLINA, IT BROUGHT CHANGES AND SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE AGRO-FORESTRY-PASTORAL ECONOMY WHICH FOR CENTURIES HAD GOVERNED THE LIFE OF THE VALLEY WITH LITTLE PROFIT. THE IRONWORKS OPENED THE DOORS IN THE VALLEY TOWARDS A MORE PROFITABLE OCCUPATION THAT INVOLVED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES: SOME DIRECTLY IN THE SMELTING OF FERROUS MINERALS, SOME IN THE IRON WORKING IN THE WORKSHOPS, SOME IN THE TRANSPORT OF ARTIFACTS TO AND FROM THE PORT OF PONALE AND WHO IN CARBONATING THE WOOD FOR THE MELTING FURNACES.

A CENTURY LATER 13 LARGE KILNS WERE IN OPERATION BUT NAPOLEON'S VICTORY WITH THE SUBSEQUENT PASSAGE OF TRENITINO UNDER THE DIRECT ADMINISTRATION OF THE HAPSBURG TYROL LED TO A NOTABLE DECLINE IN PRODUCTION. THE CRISIS CONTINUED UNTIL, TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY, THE LEDRO IRONWORKS CLOSED DEFINITELY. ONLY A FEW FORGES REMAINED IN OPERATION FOR FARRIERY WORKERS, AGRICULTURAL TOOLS AND NAILS.

A NEW IMPETUS CAME AFTER 1866, WHEN WORKERS FROM BRESCIA AND BERGAMO FLOCKED TO THE VALLEY, WHO SETTLED IN THE NOW DISUSED FORGES AND BEGAN A PROCESS DIFFERENT FROM THE BROCADES OF THE PAST AND WHICH REQUIRED GREATER SKILL AND SPECIALIZATION. THE PEOPLE OF LEDRO THEN LEARNED THE MANUFACTURE OF "HOE JUGS" WHICH DEVELOPED, ONCE AGAIN, ESPECIALLY IN PRÈ AND MOLINA, WHERE, IN THE FORGES, THE RHYTHMIC BEAT OF THE HAMMERS WAS HEARD AGAIN.

THE SHOE PITCHERS WERE NAILS OF DIFFERENT SHAPES THAT SERVED TO PROTECT THE SOLE OF THE SHOE WHICH IN THE BEST CASES WAS IN LEATHER WHILE IT WAS NORMALLY IN WOOD.

THE ACTIVITY CONTINUED UNABATED UNTIL THEIR CLOSURE FOLLOWING THE RECALL TO ARMS BY THE AUSTRIAN ARMY AND THE EXODUS TO BOHEMIA DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ARMY FAILED TO SUPPLY THE JUGS. THANKS TO THE INTEREST OF THE PARISH PRIEST OF MOLINA, THE GOVERNMENT OF VIENNA GRANTED THE RECALL FROM THE FRONT OF MANY FORMER NAIL MAKERS AND HAD A COUPLE OF FORGES BUILT IN THE CENTRAL AREAS OF THE EMPIRE, WHERE THEY SPENT THE WHOLE PERIOD OF THE WAR. IN THIS WAY THEY RAN NO RISKS BUT EACH NAILER HAD TO PRODUCE ABOUT A THOUSAND JUGS A DAY, A CONSIDERABLE FIGURE CONSIDERING THAT ABOUT 30-40 HAMMER BLOWS WERE REQUIRED FOR EACH JUG.

EVEN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE SHOE NAILS WERE IN GREAT DEMAND BUT THIS TIME THE MILITARY EXEMPTIONS AND LICENSES WERE MUCH LESS AND SO, TO MEET THE DEMAND, MANY YOUNG BOYS AND OLD PEOPLE SET TO WORK IN THE FORGES.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR, THE SPREAD OF RUBBER SOLES INSTEAD OF LEATHER ONES WITH PITCHERS DETERMINED THE DEFINITIVE DECLINE FOR THIS ACTIVITY AND NAIL MAKERS FOUND THEMSELVES WITHOUT WORK.

AFTER ABOUT 40 YEARS FROM THE CLOSURE OF THE FORGES, THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOLINA UNDERTOOK TO ACTIVATE IN PRÈ, FOR CONSERVATION AND DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY, A SMALL FORGE WITH A FIRE AND 4 WORK BENCHES, ALSO EQUIPPING IT WITH TOOLS USED IN THE PAST AND A SAMPLE OF ALL TYPES OF PITCHERS. ON THE OCCASION OF SOME PARTICULAR EVENT OR ON REQUEST BY THE PRO LOCO CONSORTIUM FOR GROUPS OF VISITORS, THE LAST 4 NAIL MAKERS STILL AVAILABLE REKINDLE THE FIRE AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY SHOW HOW SHOE PITCHERS WERE ONCE MADE.

