

Information

HOW TO GET THERE: FROM THE SOUTH

A4 Motorway/Freeway: exit at Seriate or Rovato; road SS42 (Tonale and Mendola), direction Passo del Tonale, exit Nadro-Ceto, Capo di Ponte, Cimbergo-Paspardo - Rock art sites and follow signs for Capo di Ponte.

- **For Naquane locality**
After passing Capo di Ponte railway station, keep to the right at the level crossing and take the road leading to the Chiesa delle Sante.
- **For Cemmo locality**
At the first roundabout on the outskirts of Capo di Ponte, turn left and follow signs for the Massi di Cemmo.
- **For the Capo di Ponte museum (MUPRE)**
7, Via S. Martino

FROM THE NORTH

From the Aprica Pass or Tonale Pass, after reaching Edolo continue on road SS42 (Tonale and Mendola) direction Brescia; exit Capo di Ponte-Sellerò direction Capo di Ponte.

- **For Naquane locality**
After the second roundabout, turn left into Via Limit and follow signs for Naquane-Chiesa delle Sante.
- **For Cemmo locality**
Follow the road until the third roundabout; here turn right and follow signs for the Massi di Cemmo.
- **For the Capo di Ponte museum (MUPRE)**
7, Via S. Martino

PARKING

- **For Naquane locality**
Cars/automobiles: Via Ronchi di Zir (ascent on foot: 20 minutes)
Cars/automobiles and coaches: Chiesa delle Sante (ascent on foot: 10 minutes)
- **For Cemmo locality**
Cars/automobiles and coaches:
in front of CittàdellaCultura
or the cemetery
- **For the Capo di Ponte museum (MUPRE)**
Cars/automobiles: in Via S. Martino, near the museum, and in Via Aldo Moro, next to the school buildings.
Cars/automobiles and coaches:
on the outskirts of Capo di Ponte, by the InfoPoint

BY BUS

Various bus services stop in Capo di Ponte

BY TRAIN

Brescia-Edolo line,
to Capo di Ponte station



OPENING TIMES

Check on websites prior to visit; subject to modification.

Parco Nazionale delle Incisioni Rupestri (Tel. 0364.42140)

www.parcocincisioni.capodiponte.beniculturali.it

www.facebook.com/ParcoNaquane

Open throughout the year from 8:30 until 13:30

Closed on Mondays

Parco Archeologico Nazionale dei Massi di Cemmo

www.parcoarcheologico.massidicemmo.beniculturali.it

Open throughout the year from 8:30 until 13:30

Closed on Mondays

MUPRE (Tel. 0364.42403)

www.mupre.capodiponte.beniculturali.it

www.facebook.com/mupre.vallecamonica

Open throughout the year from 14:00 until 19:00

Closed on Sundays

TICKET PRICES

The ticket office shuts 30 minutes before closing time.

ADULTS: € 4 (admittance to the Naquane National Rock Engravings Park and MUPRE; entry to the Cemmo National Archaeological Park is free).
From 1/1/2015 the cost of a full-price ticket will be € 6.

REDUCTIONS: € 2. From 1/1/2015 the cost of a reduced-price ticket will be € 3.

For conditions regarding reductions and free entry, consult websites.

DISABLED PERSONS

MUPRE is accessible to persons with reduced mobility. The National Parks are equipped for the access of those with reduced mobility, but limits exist according to the nature of the terrain. Visitors are invited to contact the Parks Office (Tel. 0364.42140) for information and to agree on the most suitable solution.

For those with visual impairment, at the Naquane National Rock Engravings Park a Braille translation of information panels regarding the most important engravings on a number of rocks is available for consultation during the visit.



Lombardy Archaeological Heritage Superintendency

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The Valle Camonica National Prehistory and Proto-history Centre



The Valle Camonica National Prehistory and Proto-history Centre

The Lombardy Archaeological Heritage Superintendency announces the inauguration of the MUPRE, which completes the Valle Camonica National Prehistory and Proto-history Centre in Capo di Ponte (BS), composed of the following cultural sites:

- the **Naquane National Rock Engravings Park**
- the **Cemmo National Archaeological Park**
- the **MUPRE-National Prehistory Museum of Valle Camonica**

The Valle Camonica National Prehistory and Proto-history Centre complements another important hub, the *Civitas Camunnorum* Roman Archaeology Centre, made up of the National Archaeology Museum and the Cividate Camuno Roman Theatre and Amphitheatre Archaeological Area, together with the Sanctuary of Minerva, Breno.

Valle Camonica, thanks to its network of rock art sites, archaeological areas, museums and itineraries - run by central government, the regional authority and local councils - is an exemplary model of a "cultural system" which enables visitors to undertake a fascinating journey touching on archaeology, history, art and nature.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE 94 "Rock Drawings in Valle Camonica"

Since prehistoric times in Valle Camonica there has been a remarkable relationship between the inhabitants and their surroundings. Humans have long lived in the valley and left evidence of their presence in the form of settlements, cemeteries and religious areas, but they have also filled it with pecked figures - relating to both daily life and the spiritual world - engraved on outcropping rock surfaces, smoothed and shaped by glaciers, and on steles and erratic boulders arranged to form megalithic sanctuaries. In 1979, this rock art patrimony was the first Italian site to be inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List (Site 94), for reason of its widespread occurrence (it is found in over 30 of the 41 municipalities in the valley), chronological range (from the late Upper Palaeolithic: 13,000-10,000 years ago, until the Iron Age: 1st millennium BC, with occurrences until the 20th century) and iconographic interest (a wide variety of subjects are represented, from concrete objects to abstract concepts).

In 2005 the Site Management Plan was drawn up by the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, coordinated by the Lombardy Archaeological Heritage Superintendency in collaboration with the local authorities; this is designed to ensure the protection and development of the Site, and increase public knowledge of it.

There are at present eight rock art parks where engravings may be seen and meditated upon; these are accompanied by archaeological sites and areas, and multi-theme itineraries - a demonstration of the attention given to the cultural heritage of this valley, which has realized the importance for future socio-economic development of making available to visitors its unique territorial resources.



VALLE CAMONICA

Prehistory and proto-history

- 1 Parco Nazionale delle Incisioni Rupestri, Capo di Ponte - Naquane
- 2 Parco Archeologico Nazionale dei Massi di Cemmo, Capo di Ponte
- 3 Parco Comunale di Luine, Darfo Boario Terme
- 4 Parco Archeologico Comunale di Seradina - Bedolina, Capo di Ponte
- 5 Parco Comunale Archeologico e Minerario di Sellero
- 6 Percorso Pluritematico del Coren delle Fate, Sonico
- 7 Riserva Naturale delle Incisioni Rupestri di Ceto, Cimbergo e Paspardo
- 8 Parco Archeologico di Asinino - Anvoia, Ossimo

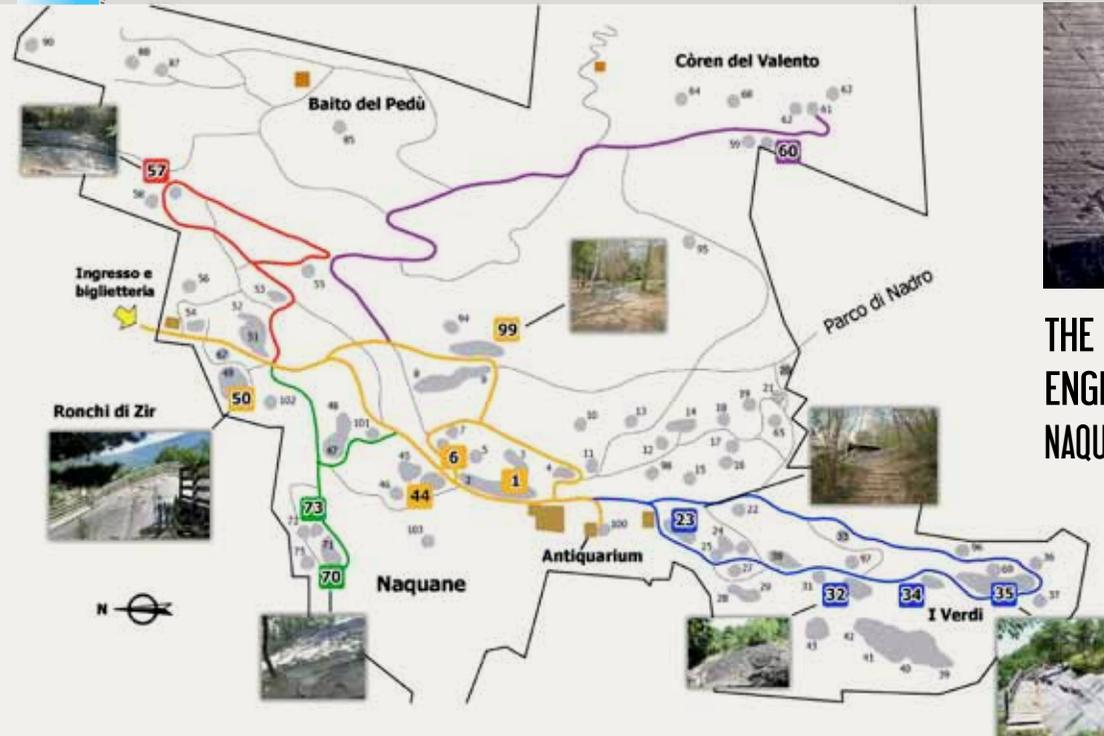
9 Sito Archeologico dei Corni Freschi, Darfo Boario Terme

10 Sito Archeologico di Valzel de Undine, Borno



Roman Period

- 11 Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Cividate Camuno
- 12 Parco Archeologico del Teatro e Anfiteatro, Cividate Camuno



THE NATIONAL ROCK ENGRAVINGS PARK
NAQUANE LOCALITY



THE NATIONAL ROCK ENGRAVINGS PARK NAQUANE LOCALITY

Established in 1955, this was the first Italian archaeological park. It serves to protect and make available for public visits one of the most important groups of rocks with prehistoric and proto-historical engravings in Valle Camonica and is the focal point of the network of rock art parks that has grown up since the 1970s.

The park covers an area of over 14 hectares in Naquane locality, on the eastern side of Valle Camonica, at an altitude of between 400 and 600 m.

It contains 104 engraved rocks, in a setting dominated by chestnut, fir, beech and hornbeam, and crossed by the ancient road between Paspardo and Nadro. On the extensive surfaces of the outcropping purple-grey coloured Permian sandstone ("Verrucano Lombardo"), smoothed and shaped by glaciers, the valley's ancient inhabitants engraved images - both figurative and symbolic - related to their everyday lives and their spiritual world.

The engravings were executed by striking the rock surface with a hammerstone (percussion technique) or, less frequently, by making grooves with a pointed tool (linear engraving).

Most of the Naquane engravings date from the Neolithic (5th millennium BC) to the Iron Age (1st millennium BC). The phenomenon was particularly common during the latter period, when the valley was inhabited by the *Camunni*, although historical-era engravings, Roman and modern, are also present.

The road leading to the park passes by the sites of Dos de l'Arca and Le Sante, finds from which may be seen in the Capo di Ponte museum (MUPRE).



Advice for visitors to the National Rock Engravings Park:

Five itineraries are signposted, which follow easy-access paths for about 3 km. The ORANGE route, which starts at the entrance, is the base pathway from which the others branch off. Visitors can choose one or more itineraries according to which rock engravings they wish to see or how much time they have; the complete tour of all paths takes about 3 hours. The rocks featured on the itineraries are numbered, signposted, and in several cases accompanied by explanatory panels in Italian and English, which illustrate the main themes of the engraved figures.

At present, for reasons of safety, the PURPLE itinerary is closed to the public (access is permitted only for study purposes, for which written request to the Superintendency is required).

These engraved rocks should not be missed:

Rock 50: located opposite the town of Capo di Ponte and the Concarena massif, with a panoramic view of the valley. It is engraved with "praying" figures, warriors (some of considerable size), buildings, footprints and *Camunni* inscriptions.

Rock 1: known also as the "Large Rock" because of its size. The surface of this particularly impressive rock has been grooved and polished by glacial action and is covered with a remarkable variety of engraved figures, about a thousand in all.

Rock 99: standing next to the old road to Nadro, this rock features not only depictions of duels, animals, footprints, shovels and grids, but also a Latin inscription which demonstrates that the practice of rock engraving continued after the Roman occupation of Valle Camonica.

Rock 70: a large figure - interpreted as the god *Cernunnos* - may be seen, next to which there is a person who seems to be praying (an "orante").

Rock 23: a beautiful portrayal of an Iron Age wagon employs a double perspective: the body is shown from above, whereas the spoked wheels and two horses are shown as seen from the side.

Rock 35: situated at the southern end of the park, it features a so-called village scene (Iron Age). Several buildings have been engraved over a pre-existing deer-hunting scene, perhaps representing a village and its activities.

For further information:

www.parcoincisioni.capodiponte.beniculturali.it



THE CEMMO NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

First reported in the 1914 Italian Touring Club *Guide to Piedmont, Lombardy and Canton Ticino*, the locality of the CEMMO rocks has been the subject of repeated investigations from the 1930s until the present day. During preparatory work for the park in 2000 an extensive Copper Age sanctuary was discovered, laid out around an intermittent pool at the foot of a rock face.

In common with other large European megalithic centres, this remarkable religious and ceremonial area remained in use for a very long time, over 4,000 years.

The area containing the two large blocks, broken away from the rock face behind, was used in the 9th-8th mill. BC (Early Mesolithic) and in the 5th-4th mill. BC (Late Neolithic), but only acquired cult significance in the 4th-3rd mill. BC (Copper Age), when the CEMMO 1 and CEMMO 2 rocks were engraved where they stood and numerous steles set up in north-south alignments.

Between the 12th and 10th cent. BC (Late Bronze Age) a boundary wall was erected; some standing stones were incorporated within it and others recycled as building material. Further additions were made in the course of the 1st mill. BC (Iron Age), when the wall was made higher and extended southwards. In Roman times, when a road was built across the area, some steles were still upright.

The pagan cult and ceremonial site fell into disuse with the arrival of Christianity: the Chalcolithic steles were knocked down and some were buried in a pit dug next to the wall. The CEMMO hollow was re-organized, with the construction of terraces and a road next to the western rock face, and the foundation of a parish church dedicated to S. Siro, according to legend the saint who brought Christianity to the valley.

Advice for visitors to the CEMMO National Archaeological Park:

A video surveillance system is in operation in the park, with automatic opening of the gate during opening hours. About 15 minutes before closing time visual warnings (flashing lights) and auditory signals remind visitors that the park is about to close.

The steles from the CEMMO megalithic sanctuary, together with those from other Copper Age sanctuaries in Valle Camonica, are on display in the museum at Capo di Ponte (MUPRE): a visit there is recommended to complement a walk through the park.

For further information:

www.parcoarcheologico.massidicemmo.beniculturali.it



MUPRE The National Prehistory Museum of Valle Camonica

Why a National Prehistory Museum in the Valley of the Engravings?

Valle Camonica is world famous for its extraordinary complex of rock engravings, most of which are prehistoric in date. Although the general public is aware of this iconographic inheritance left by the valley's ancient inhabitants, knowledge concerning their daily lives - which has emerged only in the last 30 years thanks to numerous rescue and research excavations - is less widespread. Various settlements, workplaces, cult sites and burial grounds used by these people - known from the Iron Age onwards as *Camunni* - have been found.

In the National Prehistory Museum, housed in the old Villa Agostani in Capo di Ponte's historic centre, a display of archaeological finds and the heritage of rock-engraved figures are combined into an integral expression of Valle Camonica's identity.

The visit begins on the ground floor: a series of vaulted rooms are devoted to the theme *Religious centres: Copper Age megalithic sanctuaries*, which continues in the lightweight extension to the rear. More than 50 engraved steles and menhirs illustrate the nature of the Copper Age (4th-3rd millennium BC) megalithic sanctuaries: CEMMO, Bagnolo, Ossimo-Anvoia and Ossimo-Pat. These are particularly evocative exhibits - and in some cases enormous - which embody the valley's participation in the widespread phenomenon of European megalithism.

The itinerary continues on the first floor, where a large hall contains the sections on material culture: *The first settlement of the valley in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, Neolithization and the transformation of the landscape, Settlements, Places of work, Burials* and, continuing the subject of the ground-floor section, *Proto-historical sacred sites and aspects of cult*.

Go beyond the museum with a touch

The traditional exhibition of material in display cases is extended and enriched by 5 touchscreens which allow the visitor to explore in more detail a number of topics by choosing the appropriate links: history of research, UNESCO and rock art parks, settlements, sacred sites, writing, Copper Age sanctuaries.

Advice for visitors to MUPRE

Booking is advised for school parties and other groups even if guided visits are not required. For groups without booking, entry will depend upon the number of visitors already present in the museum.

For further information:

www.mupre.capodiponte.beniculturali.it

