

Natural Parks, zoos and gardens in Veneto – 2015

Giardino Monumentale Barbarigo

Barbarigo Historic Garden

open daily through Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m.-sunset, Sunday and Italian holidays from 10 to sunset, in Valsanzibio, Via Diana 2, about 38 miles south of Vicenza; baroque garden with hundreds of different trees and plants, a maze, statues, fountains, ponds, water games and fish ponds, admission: €10; reduced €6 for children aged 6-14.

<http://www.valsanzibiogiardino.it/en/>

Orto Botanico

Botanical Garden

in Padova, Via Orto Botanico 15, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza; open through May 30, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; June-Sept. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., closed on Mondays; Nov.-March, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., closed on Mondays; it's the world's first botanical garden: it opened in Padova in 1545 and it still preserves its original layout – a circular central plot, symbolizing the world, surrounded by a ring of water; it is famous for its collections of Insectivorous, medicinal and poisonous plants, orchids, aquatic, Alpine, and Mediterranean plants; admission: €10; reduced €8, for children aged 6-18; family fee: €22.

<http://www.ortobotanico.unipd.it/en/index.html>.

Casa delle Farfalle e Bosco delle Fate

Butterfly Arc and Fairy's Wood

in Montegrotto Terme, Via Degli Scavi 21 bis, about 27 miles southeast of Vicenza; open through Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., closed on Mondays; admission: €9; reduced €7 for children 4-12 and senior citizens older than 65; the ticket includes the entrance to the Fairy's Wood. The Butterfly Arc houses hundreds of specimens of arthropods, including scorpions, scarabs, dung beetles, caterpillars, orchid praying mantises all chosen from among the largest specimens in the world. Specialists are available to provide visitors an opportunity to become better acquainted with the arthropods by interacting with them. The Fairy's Wood is a 7000 square meter park where the relationship between man and nature is examined by connecting history, traditions, fantasy and science.

http://www.micromegamondo.com/casadellefarfalle/index.php?l=ita&c=dove_siam

Esapolis

Museum of live insects, silkworms and bees

in Padova, Via dei Colli 28, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza; April-June and Aug. 1-Sept. 14, Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – noon and 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; closed on Mondays; in July and Sept. 14-March 30, open on weekends, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; admission: €9; reduced: €7 for children 4-12 & senior citizens older than 65.

http://www.micromegamondo.com/casadellefarfalle/index.php?l=ita&c=sezioni_informazioni#orari_e_costi

Grotta Cascata del Varone e Giardino Botanico

Varone Waterfall Cave Park and Botanic Garden

in Tenno, Via Cascata, 12, about 93 miles northwest of Vicenza; open through Aug. 30, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sept. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Oct. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Nov.-Dec. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. only on Saturdays, Sundays and Italian holidays; a natural gorge, eroded over 20,000 years by Lake Tenno's waters, which rumble their way down from a height of almost 100 meters; admission: €5.50; free parking and picnic area.

http://www.cascata-varone.com/index_en.htm

Grotte di Oliero

Oliero Caves

in Valstagna, Via Oliero di Sotto 85, about 34 miles north of Vicenza; open on weekends and Italian holidays through June 13, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; June 14-Sept. 7, daily, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sept. 7-Nov.1 open only on Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; last access is 30 minutes prior to closing time; admission: €7.50; reduced €6, for children aged 5-12 and senior citizens older than 65; free for children under 4; for more info in English, visit

<http://www.showcaves.com/english/it/showcaves/Oliero.html>

Parco delle Cascate

Waterfall Park

in Molina, Verona, Via Bacilieri 1, about 18 miles north of Vicenza; the name Molina derives from the past presence of many mills (in Italian, *mulini*) working thanks to the hydraulic force of the same springs from which the beautiful waterfalls of the Park are created. A visit to Molina also represents a step into the past: the village has maintained the characteristics of an ancient Medieval town; open through Sept. 30, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (last entrance 5:30 pm.); Oct. 1-Oct.

11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Oct. 12-Nov. 2, Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; admission: €5; reduced €3 for children 6-11.

<http://www.parcodellecascate.it/indexeng.php>

Parco Natura Viva

Safari Park and Zoo

in Bussolengo, Località Figara 40, about 42 miles west of Vicenza; open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday and Italian holidays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; safari park 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; admission: €20; €15 for children 3 -12.

<http://www.parconaturaviva.it/home.php?changelan=2&idp=6>

Parco Faunistico Cappeller

Cappeller Zoo

in Cartigliano, Via Kimble, about 18 miles north of Vicenza; open through Nov. 15, April – Sept., Monday -Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Oct. 1-30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on Fridays; Nov. 1-14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed on Fridays; Nov. 16-Feb. 14, open only on Sundays; admission: €12; reduced €8 for children 2-11, senior citizens older than 60 and military members.

<http://www.parcocappeller.com/>

Parco Faunistico Valcorba

Valcorba Zoological Park

in Pozzonovo, Stroppare (Padova), about 47 miles south of Vicenza; through Oct. 30, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., on Sunday is open until 8:30 p.m.; in October, closed on Fridays; Nov. 1-15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed on Fridays; from Nov. 16 to Feb. 14 is open only on Sundays; last entrance is one hour prior to closing; admission: €12; reduced €8 for children 4-7.

<http://www.parcovalcorba.com/en/>

Parco Giardino Sigurtà

Sigurtà Garden

in Valeggio sul Mincio (Verona), Via Cavour 1, about 53 miles west of Vicenza. Open through Nov. 8, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; in Oct. and Nov. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; admission: €12; reduced €6.50 children ages 5-14; free for children younger than 4; senior citizens older than 65 €9.50; for guests with difficulties in getting around there is also a special area reserved on the trains, with electric step for wheelchair access

for comfortable enjoyment of the "Enchanted Trail".

<http://www.sigurta.it/storia.php>.

Parco Zoo Punta Verde

Punta Verde Zoological Park

in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Via G. Scerbanenco 19/1, about 98 miles east of Vicenza; April-June, daily 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; July 1-12, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; July 13-Aug. 23, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Aug. 24-Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sept. 14-30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Oct. 1-31, Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m.-5p.m.; Nov. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; admission: €13; reduced €10 for children 3-11.

http://www.parcozoopuntaverde.it/index.php?lingua_sito=2

Sea Life Aquarium

in Lido di Jesolo, Piazza Venezia 28, about 64 miles east of Vicenza; open through June 30, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; July 1-Sept. 6, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sept. 7-27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; open on weekends and Italian holidays through Jan. 6, 2016; admission: €16; reduced €13 for children younger than 11 and taller than 39,37 inches; free for children shorter than 39,37 inches; for more info in English and to get discount tickets on line, visit <https://www.visitsealife.com/jesolo/en/> .

As of May 2015