

WHV – Pile dwellers, nice to meet you! 2025

Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps, Italy

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2011)

PROJECT DATES

28 July - 08 August 2025

(Possibility to be hosted

July 26 - August 10)

THE SITE - This serial property of 111 small individual sites encompasses the remains of prehistoric pile-dwelling (or stilt house) settlements in and around the Alps built from around 5000 to 500 B.C. on the edges of lakes, rivers or wetlands. The settlements are a unique group of exceptionally well-preserved and culturally rich archaeological sites, which constitute one of the most important sources for the study of early agrarian societies in the region.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to promote the World Heritage Site of the Prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps, a transnational serial site. Three component parts of the site have joined together for a project that will involve volunteers in archaeological research and in the valorization of a very particular site visible only during excavations or through reconstructions. The pile dwellings are in fact wooden dwellings from 4000 years ago that have preserved important data to reconstruct the life of these ancient men. Volunteers will be able to participate in a real archaeological excavation or contribute to the valorization of a reconstructed village.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will be involved in 3 different component parts of the WHL Site (Lucone di Polpenazze (Brescia province), Fivè and Ledro (Trentino province). 5 volunteers will be employed in the Lucone excavation and 5 will work in the summer in Trentino sites. At Lucone di Polpenazze (Brescia) the volunteers will participate in the archaeological excavation a Bronze Age pile dwelling. They will be able to participate personally in an archaeological excavation by carrying out research support activities. They will thus be able to experience life during an archaeological excavation, learn how the works are organized and actively participate in different research areas. At Fivè and Ledro the young people involved, both locals and volunteers, will be offered various cultural experiences, including but not limited to visits and guided excursions to places of value (archaeological sites, places of natural interest, parishes, churches, museums, etc.), as well as workshops and meetings with special reference figures in the community. At Lucone supporting practical field activities are foreseen in the following topics:

- the management and filing of the archaeological materials found
- the search for fish remains in the sediments to reconstruct the weight of these foods in the diet of these lake peoples.
- the reception of foreign public visiting the excavation (the excavation is in fact open to the public every day).

The research activity will be accompanied by moments and training meetings with archaeologists, archaeozoologists, palaeobotanists.

PARTNERS - Museo Archeologico della Valle Sabbia (Valle Sabbia Archaeological Museum); “Piero Simoni” Foundation and UMSt Soprintendenza per i beni e le attività culturali – Ufficio beni archeologici – Servizi Educativi; Municipalities of Gavardo and Bleggio Superiore; Municipalities of Fivè, Ledro and Polpenazze del Garda; Museo delle Palafitte del Lago di Ledro – ReLed – Muse, MAB riserva di Biosfera UNESCO, Alpi Ledrensi e Judicaria, Parco Naturale Adamello Brenta Geopark; the University of Padua; the Istituto per i Beni Culturali del Veneto; Ministero della Cultura - Soprintendenza Archeologia Belle Arti e Paesaggio per le province di Bergamo e Brescia (Superintendency for the provinces of Bergamo and Brescia); International Coordination Group Palafittes (CH); Lombardy Region and the UNESCO Sites Coordination Board: Ministry of Culture.

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