

THE MEMORY OF DANTE REVIVED IN THE PO DELTA AREA

In Ravenna and in the Po Delta numerous initiatives will be hosted in order to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Supreme Poet's death www.deltadelpo.eu/it/86-700anni-dante

Initiatives, exhibitions, workshops, readings and dedicated itineraries: there will be a great many events throughout Italy to mark the 700th anniversary of Dante Alighieri's death, which took place in Ravenna on the night between 13th and 14th September 1321. In fact, restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic have not hindered the celebrations dedicated to the Supreme Poet, even if they have been revised either in an online mode or by setting up virtual tours for exhibitions.

One of the most active Italian cities is Ravenna, whose name will always be associated not only with its extraordinary mosaics but also with Dante, who arrived here following his stay in Verona at the court of Cangrande della Scala, accepting the invitation of the lord of Ravenna, Guido Novello da Polenta, who gave him the opportunity to cultivate his studies and finish writing his Divine Comedy. The poet stayed in the Byzantine city for about three years and wrote Paradise there. Dante also became a representative of the patron from Ravenna, carrying out occasional political ambassadorships, such as the one that led him to Venice, a journey during which he contracted malaria causing him to die soon afterwards. Along the same route, the Florentine poet also stopped and stayed at Pomposa, where he was enchanted by the frescoes of the Last Judgement which, according to some, directly inspired him to create some of the literary images of the Divine Comedy.

There will also be guided tours of Dante-related locations, especially Ravenna, where the poet drew inspiration on several occasions for the settings described in the cantos of his most extraordinary work. There are therefore several itineraries dedicated to Dante, to discover the locations that saw him as a protagonist, such as Palazzo Rasponi, which was probably the palace of the da Polenta family where Dante stayed, the Pineta di Classe with its large oak grove that inspired him when he wrote several verses, the Basilica of San Francesco where his funeral was celebrated and, of course, the tomb where the casket containing his mortal remains is kept, which the Franciscan friars had secretly placed in the wall of the cloister for fear that it would be stolen by the Florentines, who never resigned themselves to giving up ownership.



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> GAL DELTA 2000 Soc. cons. a r.l. Strada Mezzano, 10 44020 Ostellato (FE) Tel. 0533.57693-4 Fax 0533.57674 info@deltaduemila.net



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On a cultural level, until January 2022 the MAR, the Ravenna City Art Museum will host three major exhibitions, united under the logo "Dante. Gli occhi e la mente". ("Dante. His Eyes and His Mind".) "Inclusa est flamma. Ravenna 1921: Il Settecentenario della Morte di Dante (to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Supreme Poet's death), open until 17th July at the Biblioteca Classense (Classense Library); "Le Arti al tempo dell'esilio" (The Arts in Times of Exile), at the Church of San Romualdo, as from 24th April 2021; "Un epopea POP" (A POP Epic), at the same MAR museum, as from 4th September 2021. Virtual tours of these exhibitions are now online (available by visiting the www.mar.ra.it website), which will give visitors the opportunity to enter into the heart of the three exhibition routes thanks to a combination of 360° panoramic photographs, interviews with the curators and reproductions of spaces and environments.

Among the online proposals, the cycle of meetings focused on the relationship between Trieste and Ravenna is worthy of note, a relationship that was particularly intense in the wake of Dante, a symbol of Italianness for lands that were still under Hapsburg domination. The meetings will be available on the YouTube channel "Viva Dante" and on the Biblioteca Classense Facebook profile. It is precisely the Istituzione Biblioteca Classense (Classense Library Institution), in conjunction with the celebrations to mark the 700th anniversary of the Supreme Poet's death, that has set itself the objective of disseminating Dante's works and studies, choosing to make available to the public the most recent material suitable for open-shelf viewing, taken from the vast collection that the Library has cultivated over the years. Therefore, a new Dante section was established, which is now hosted in two rooms that have been completely refurbished especially for this occasion. Also worthy of note, on 30th April and 1st May, the conference entitled "Dante and Jung", on the psychoanalytical reading of the Comedy promoted by Rotary International district 2072 will be available in streaming. However, between now and the end of the year, the Dante-related calendar of events will be expanded with many other proposals and initiatives, hoping that the trend of the Covid-19 pandemic will allow more events to take place.

In terms of tourism, there will be no lack of proposals to get to know more about the extraordinary locations in the Po Delta area where the Supreme Poet spent the last years of his unforgettable life.

All the information and initiatives dedicated to Dante Alighieri's 700th anniversary hosted in Ravenna and in the Po Delta area can be seen on the



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new website

www.deltadelpo.eu

The website has been developed in synergy with Destinazione Romagna and the local tour operators in the Po Delta area, thanks to the LAG-directed project dated 19.2.02.14B DESTINAZIONE TURISTICA DELTA DEL PO (PO DELTA PARK TOURIST DESTINATION) funded through the Emilia-Romagna Region 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme - Measure 19 - Support to Local Leader Development.



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