



Ente Turistico Valposchiavo
Railway Station
www.valposchiavo.ch

Town circuit
(detailed information on the back)

- 1** Palazzo de Bassus - Mengotti
Poschiavo Valley Museum
Collections of Indian Art and Etruscan Art
Valposchiavo Weaver
- 2** Casa Tomé
- 3** Aino Mill
- 4** Piazza Comunale (Main Square)
- 5** La Tor (Old Town Hall)
- 6** Casa Console
paintings of the Romantic period
- 7** Protestant Church
- 8** San Vittore Mauro Cath. Church
- 9** Oratorium Sant'Anna / Ossuary
- 10** Old Convent
- 11** Casa Matossi Lendi
- 12** The Palazzi
- 13** Santa Maria Assunta Cath. Church
- 14** Augustinian Convent
- 15** San Pietro Cath. Church

- 1** Pro Vita Comuna
- 2** Hotel Altavilla
- 3** Hotel Foppoli
- 4** Restaurant Motrice
- 5** Hotel Albrici à la Poste
- 6** Hotel Caffè Semadeni
- 7** Restaurant Hostaria del Borgo
- 8** Hotel Centrale
- 9** Restaurant Flora
- 10** Hotel Suisse
- 11** Restaurant Inn Châlet Stazione
- 12** Viva La Pasta
Tea Room - Snack Bar
- 13** Hotel Croce Bianca

- 1** Railway Station
T 081 2885454
Post Office
Postauto Bus Station
T 081 8441042
- 2** Police
T 081 8390450
- 3** Pharmacy Drugstore Bernina
T 081 8440251
- 4** Biblio.ludo.teca (Municipal Library)
T 081 8440104
- 5** Polo Poschiavo
- 6** Swimming pool
T 081 8440016
- 7** Playground
- 8** FisioTonic Fitness Center
T 081 8346970
- 9** Hospital
T 081 8391111
- 10** Town Hall
T 081 8390300
- 1** Tosio arredamenti



Poschiavo • southern charm and culture

Poschiavo, known locally as the “borgo” (= “town center” to distinguish it from the Poschiavo Valley or Valposchiavo), surprises the visitor with its sophisticated architectural setting that lends it an almost urban atmosphere. Our tour guides you through the historic old town’s picturesque cobbled streets and past its principal points of interest.

Palazzo de Bassus-Mengotti 1

This grand Baroque palazzo, one of the Valposchiavo’s principal mansions, dates from 1655 with later additions. It has housed the Valposchiavo museum since 1985. Dedicated to the patrician and bourgeois side of valley life, the exhibits display aspects of everyday life and local art and culture. It also houses the Tessitura Valposchiavo, where traditional textiles have been produced from natural fibers by hand for over half a century. The ground-floor shop exhibits and sells traditional as well as modern hand-woven textiles.

Casa Tomé 2

As part of the Valposchiavo museum, this ancient farmhouse exhibits the other, rural aspect of life in the valley. Its contents and the very walls tell an ancient tale of perennial struggle with the elements. The core of the structure dates back to 1357 and additions dating from 1450 produced the current form with its entrance hall, the “curt” that leads both to the dwelling and the stable, and the characteristic pitched roof. Culinary workshops and exhibits explain and teach the valley’s traditional cuisine.

Aino Mill 3

The Aino pre-industrial workshops and mill form the third part of the valley museum. They lie on the riverbank, just north of town on the old road to San Carlo. The working gristmill, sawmill, and the bellows at the forge are all powered by an antique water turbine. Like the Palazzo de Bassus-Mengotti and the Casa Tomé, the mill is one of the featured stations on a culinary tour of the valley. You will find more information at the Valposchiavo Tourist Office.

Piazza Comunale (Main Square) 4

The present form of the main square, framed by elegant, neo-classical and neo-Gothic patrician townhouses, dates from the second half of the 19th century. Especially noteworthy is the Hotel Albrici with its Baroque Chamber of the Syblis.

La Tor (Old Town Hall) 5

The imposing 13th-century stone tower at the northern edge of the Piazza was once the home of the feudal overlords of the valley. From the 16th century on, it served as the town hall and a symbol of the valley’s political independence. The main meeting hall, built after 1650, housed the local court of justice and was the infamous site of over 200 witch trials.

Casa Console – Art Museum of the Romantic Period 6

The elegant 19th-century patrician townhouse was built by Antonio Semadeni, the first Swiss Consul in Poland and scion of an important dynasty of Poschiavo confectioners that was active all over Europe. It has housed an important collection of German and Swiss Romantic paintings since 2002.

Protestant Church 7

The simple and unadorned Protestant church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, dates from the Baroque period and was built between 1642 and 1653. The bell tower was erected 20 years later and was decorated in the 18th century. The modest interior reflects Protestant values.

San Vittore Mauro Church 8 and Oratorium Sant’Anna 9

The church is a collegiate foundation and stands on the main square. Records that seem to refer to this church go back to 703 AD. The present structure dates from several periods: the imposing bell tower dates from 1212, while the choir and nave were entirely rebuilt between 1497 and 1503 in late Gothic style. The inside was remodeled in 1903 when the Baroque interior was replaced by neo-Gothic. That is also when the loggia of the Oratorium Sant’Anna was transformed into the ossuary that has become a tourist attraction!

Old Convent 10

The impressive Old Santa Maria Presentata Convent lies just off the main square behind the Catholic church. It housed an order of nuns from 1629 that joined the Augustinian order in 1684. The convent is surrounded by a high wall and was developed from several older buildings in stages that expanded until the 18th century. The recently restored complex now serves as an ecumenical center for spiritual and cultural exchange. Both the convent and a permanent exhibit of the German artist and author, Wolfgang Hildesheimer’s collages can be viewed by appointment.

The Palazzi 12

A picturesque, mid-19th-century street of patrician villas bounds the historical town center to the south. The original owners were a group of mostly Protestant emigrant coffeehouse owners and confectioners who made their fortunes all over Europe between the early 19th century and World War I. The splendid street documents their close contact with the valley over the generations.

Santa Maria Assunta Catholic Church 13

The Santa Maria Assunta church is a prime example of early 18th-century Baroque architecture. It stands isolated south of the town displaying its well-balanced proportions, its imposing staircase leading to the main entrance, and the poplars that frame it to great advantage. The interior boasts precious decoration and the dome is painted with interesting trompe-l’oeil frescos.

The church is normally locked, but can be visited by obtaining the key from the Valposchiavo Tourist Office.

The nearby new Augustinian convent, is also an interesting building, that was designed by the Italian architect Luigi Caccia Dominioni 14.

(Text: Società Storica Valposchiavo • www.ssvp.ch)

