

**Savudrija
Salvore**

16

A LITERARY ITINERARY FULVIO TOMIZZA



15

**Bašanija
Bassania**

C.I.



ITINERARY 4

Umag/Umago - Savudrija/Salvore (10 km)

**Zambratija
Zambrattia**

14



Sipar

Umag / Umago

A LITERARY ITINERARY FULVIO TOMIZZA



ITINERARY 4: Umag/Umago - Savudrija/Salvore (10 km)

Continuing along the shore path from Punta in Savudrija (Salvore) direction, you will encounter the tourist resorts of Stella Maris and Katoro (Catoro).

Up until the 1990s, a boat service connected Umago, and the other coastal towns of western Istria, to the city of Trieste. In his works, Fulvio Tomizza reminisces about his boat journeys to Trieste accompanied by his mother.

It was still night when Bepo took them to Umago by horse and cart.(...)The steamboat whistled again and left. (...) The bosun brought mummy a cup of coffee, addressing her as Madam. The other women on the boat were clutching cages with chicken and holding little sacks with flour.
(*La quinta stagione*, Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, Milano 1987, p.p. 40-1)





Coasting the crystal blue sea along the beaches and the pinewoods before reaching Salvore, make a stop in Catoro, to see the ruins of a roman rustic villa from the 1st century a.D. Only a short distance from there there is Sipar, an ancient site mentioned on the Peutinger Map, as Insulae Sepomaia. Unfortunately, only a few ruins of these ancient buildings remain.

LARGER SALVORE TERRITORY

The territory of Salvore stretches between two well protected bays – from Zambrattia to Val de Pian (Salvore old village) and its coastline is ideal for navigation. Inland, the many little valleys are blessed with fertile soil. The area has been inhabited since prehistoric times.

14. ZAMBRATIJA / ZAMBRATTIA

There are exceptional historical treasures in the waters of Zambrattia: the remains of a prehistoric pile-dwelling site dating back to the Eneolithic era and the remains of a sewn vessel, the most ancient found so far in the Mediterranean. On a hill above Zambrattia there are still few traces of a pre-historic type of dwelling called „castelliere“ dating back to the Bronze Age (3,200 years ago).

Adjacent to the main road there is the small church dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. The first reference to the building was made in the 4th century AD but from the outline of the building it can be dated back to 3rd century AD. On the south wall of the church there is a funeral stone from the 1st century AD commissioned by Teidius Donatus and Teidia Zosima for their dead son. It was one of the oldest artefacts discovered in the area during some excavation works. Zambrattia was named after the feudal lord Zuanne Bratti. He was the owner of a fiefdom that acquired importance after the danger of sea raids ceased, while at the same time the Sipar castle became unsuitable as a dwelling. In 1552, the fiefdom passed on from the Bratti family of Capodistria, to the Counts Rota of Momiano who retained the ownership for centuries

Continuing along the costal route from Zambrattija (Zambrattia) you will arrive to Bašanija (Bassania).

15. BAŠANIJA / BASSANIA

In Bassania, on the most westerly point of the Istrian peninsula, stands the soaring frame of the oldest lighthouse still operational of the Adriatic sea. It was built in 1818 by the architect Pietro Nobile, whose design was commissioned by the *Trieste Commodity Exchange*, with the patronage of Francis I of Austria. The Emperor's name is mentioned on the plaque at the bottom of the lighthouse.

Not far from the lighthouse on the sea shore of Punta Laco, one can see some unusual wooden cranes. They are employed to lift the local boats called *batane* and protect them in the bad weather. Such a clever stratagem was devised by Salvore's fishermen at the beginning of 20th century.

Bassania also hosts the venue of Salvore's local Italian Community, which was founded in 1962. Among the founding members there was the poet and writer Ligio Zanin, who was originally from Rovigno, but was working as a teacher in the primary school in Salvore at the time. In his autobiographical novel *Martin Muma* (1990) he describes the tragic events of both his life and country. Like Tomizza, Zanin's message to mankind is to recognise the moral values of life and tolerance.

Salvore's graveyard also hosts the mortal remains of the philosopher Enrico Mreule, scholar of classic philology and Italian, who was friends with the philosopher Carlo Michelstaedter. The renown writer Claudio Magris made Mreule the main character of his novel *Un'altro mare* (A different Sea).





16. SAVUDRIJA/SALVORE OLD VILLAGE

At the entrance of the old village there is a commemorative stone in remembrance of the victims of the sinking of the San Marco steamboat, on the 9th September 1944. This was the greatest tragedy to affect the area in the Second World War.

The plane must have hit the San Marco and daddy and Alfredo rushed to the site on their bicycles. (...) It's a disaster - said dad wiping his eyes with his handkerchief; he said no more, leaving Alfredo there to get the whole story. The steamboat had been strafed and bombed, around the corner from Salvore's promontory, not far from Canegra's quarry. When he saw the fighter plane, the captain must have tried to get closer to the shore to let the passengers disembark. But it was too late and the San Marco sank a hundred metres away from the rocks... the eight kilometres of road between Salvore and Umago became a frenzy of motorbikes and cars beeping their horns as they carried the injured. Everywhere there were people crying. (La quinta stagione, Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, Milano 1987)

Having been inhabited since pre-history, Salvore, also features in the Peutinger Map under the name of Silbio. The Romans left behind several of their villas, the ruins of which could still be seen, as well as extensive works in the harbour. Salvore's harbour is one of the best preserved and is still operational, bearing traces of its original status. The hard working fishermen of Salvore should be commended for retaining their skills and traditions through the centuries, passing them down from generation to generation.

Overlooking the harbour, there is the medieval church of St. John the Evangelist, which probably dates back to the 11th century. It was

originally built as a three-nave church. The original features of the church could be seen in the upper left corner of the painting "The battle of Salvo" by Domenico Tintoretto, currently in the Uffizi in Florence. During the first restoration in the 14th - 15th century it acquired Gothic elements and in the subsequent renovation of 1826, the side aisles were demolished, and the church was given Classicist elements with a prominent tympanum on the facade and a large cornice. The facade is decorated with a simple portal. Above the window openings there are two semi-circular niches with the statues of St. John the Evangelist and St. Andrew. Beside of the church there is a rectory with a beautifully designed cistern in a small courtyard. The coat of arms of the Donato family is carved both on the facade of the church and on the cistern.

From the church return to the main road passing near the Istrian aqueduct fountain. Just outside the hamlet, to the left of Villa Anna, take the cycle path No. 13 and turn right onto a profiled curb track which runs under the shadows of mulberry and black pine trees and laurel. At the end of the track, you will see the ruins of Stanzia Grande also called Villa Cesare, an 18th cent. Palazzo



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