



VERONA, ITALY HISTORIC TRAIL



FIELD GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Field Guide contains information on the Verona Historical Trail designed by Hiltrud Nupp of Troop 295 from Vicenza, Italy along with pictures from Bill Nupp in 2005. The guide is intended to be a starting point in your endeavor to learn about the history of the sites on the trail. Remember, this may be the only time your Scouts visit the Verona area in their life so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to Admin@tac-bsa.org or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/>.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover Inset: Ponte della Pietra.

Front Cover: Verona Skyline including the Lamberty Tower and the Adige River



VERONA, ITALY
HISTORIC TRAIL

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GETTING PREPARED

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.

1. Review this Field Guide in detail.
2. Check local conditions and weather.
3. Study and Practice with the map and compass.
4. Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.
5. Take plenty of water.
6. Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.
7. Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."
8. Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.
9. Ensure Two-Deep Leadership at all times.
10. Check the Quick Quiz and keep it with you on the trail.



WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

Verona...a city at the foot of the Dolomites; a city of wonders, churches and romance.

Verona...imbedded in a valley surrounded by beautiful sights, such as the "Lago di Garda" (the Lake Garda).

Verona...on the route between Milano and Venezia. It's a city with lots of flair.

Verona...the city which set the sight for a play of one of England's most famous writers, William Shakespeare. Which play you ask, why "Romeo and Juliet" of course!

Verona will grab every ones attention, whether you are 6 or 100 years old. This city has something to offer to us all. It is very versatile in history, culture, architecture and nationalities. Okay, now a short history: Verona was built along the banks of the Adige River sometime in the 6th century BC. It was occupied by the Euganei and the Veneti who ultimately gave their name to the region, the Veneto. In the 3rd century BC the Romans conquered the Veneto region and it took all the way up to 89 BC for the people of the region to be given full Roman citizenship. The Arena was originally built in the first century BC (completed in 30AD). Verona had various rulers in its first 1200 years. Later the main ones were: 1263 Leonardino della Scala (Mastino or Mastiff) begins the area in which the Scala (staircase) family rules. In 1308 Cangrande I (Big Dog) comes to power and extends Scaliger rule over almost all of the Veneto mainland. In 1329, after the death of Cangrande I, Verona's power starts to decline and finally in 1387 the Scala family loses power completely. In 1314 Dante, a famous Italian writer and a public office holder arrives in Verona. Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) was an envoy and a prior at the magistrate in Florence. He lived in Verona until 1319. From 1405-1797 Verona becomes part of the Venetian state. In 1801 Verona split between Austria and France. And in 1866 the Austrians get defeated by the Italians and Verona becomes part of Italy. Again in 1915-18 Austria and Italy fight about Verona and it gets heavily damaged during these attacks (World War I). Verona stays with Italy. During World War II, the allies bombed Verona and the Germans blew up all the bridges. Verona has not only rebuilt many of its old historical sites, but has also become a modern city with a large variety of industry. Now that you know just a very little bit of Verona, let's get started. Remember; don't forget your good walking shoes, water, camera and wallet.

Buon viaggio! – Have a nice trip!



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HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

Hike

Where and How to Start

The trail starts in downtown Verona at the Portoni della Bra on Corsa Porta Nuova and heads generally northeast through the old town to the river.

Distance and Time

The Verona hike measures about 5 km in distance. Experienced adult hikers completed the route in about 3 hours, stopping at each location to view the site. Younger and less-experienced hikers, and those who wish to take more time, will take longer, perhaps a 5 hours or more. Take the time to learn and enjoy the hike.



Portoni della Bra



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VERONA HIKING ROUTE

START – Portoni della Bra

The **Portoni della Bra** is a gate of Verona built in the 16th century along the medieval walls to connect Piazza Bra to what was once the sub-urban countryside (braidà). The gates are formed by two round arches, and between them, at the top, is a clock placed there in 1872. The lower part is made of Verona marble and the upper part of red bricks.

45°26'17.2"N 10°59'29.4"E – Corso Porta Nuova, 1, 37122 Verona VR, Italy

As you head north from the gate, look to your left and you will see the next stop, the Teatro Filarmonico.

Checkpoint #2 – Teatro Filarmonico (Philharmonic Theater)

The **Philharmonic Theatre** was originally built by Francesco Bibiena, a famous architect and scenographer in 1716. In 1770 the theater burnt down completely but was entirely re-built. The theater we can visit and admire today is the third reconstruction, because in 1945 it was bombed and only the atrium and the foyer were left intact. These two parts were then restored and integrated together with the original eighteen century plan. Responsible for this latest reconstruction were the Accademia Filarmonico and the architect V. Filippini. The theater is one of the most loved theaters in Verona. While visiting the inside is not part of the trail, if you want to you may do so, either now or on your way back.

45°26'19.0"N 10°59'26.3"E – Via Roma, 3, 37122 Verona VR, Italy

Head north from the gate and turn right on Via Degli Alpini. On the right-hand side of the road is the next stop, the Gran Guardia.



VERONA HIKING ROUTE

Checkpoint #3 – Palazzo della Gran Guardia

In front of you, you have the **Palazzo della Gran Guardia** with its long elegant series of windows. Construction of this building started in 1610 on the south side of the square but did not get completed until 1820. The **Palazzo della Gran Guardia**, as you see it today, is the work of Domenico Curtoni (1556-1629), who was the grandson of Michele Sammicheli (1486/88-1559). The **Palazzo della Gran Guardia** was intended as a place where soldiers would stand in formation, during rainy weather, for the Generals to pass their troops.

45°26'16.8"N 10°59'32.2"E – Piazza Bra, 1, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Now turn back around and you will be looking at our next stop, the Piazza Bra.

Checkpoint #4 – Piazza Bra

This is the largest **square** in all of Verona and it is opening out in front of the impressive Arena. The name originates from the word "braida" meaning "open space". In Roman times this **square** was used as a Forum Boarium, a cattle market. Its sixteenth century layout resulted from the work of Sanmicheli, which included the Portoni della Bra, the Palazzo della Gran Guardia as well as the Pentagonal Tower. The **Piazza Bra** and the Listone (sidewalk around the square) are characterized by the elegance of the long series of fine buildings. Each of which have elegant facades, rich in original decorations, terraces and balconies looking out directly on to the street.

Walk towards the Arena, and make sure you walk through the small park. There are some important things you see there, for example the Fountain of the Alps, which is situated beneath the statue of Victor Emanuel II, who was the First king (1861-1878) of the united Italy and last king of Piedmont-Sardinia (1849-1861). A little to your right is the Palazzo Barbieri, it was built under the supervision of G. Barbieri in 1838 and was considered the Palazzo della Gran Guardia Nuova, the new Palazzo. Nowadays it is used as the municipal offices. Walk around the fountain and you will find a bronze book laying in the grass. Read it and remember or write down what it says, this will be part of our quiz at the end.



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VERONA HIKING ROUTE

Checkpoint #4 – Piazza Bra (cont.)

45°26'18.5"N 10°59'33.4"E – Piazza Bra, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

On the northeast side of the Piazza is the next checkpoint, the Verona Arena.

Checkpoint #5 – Verona Arena

At the entrance of the **Arena**, you have parts of the most outer ring that still displays 4 arches. Originally, when the **amphitheater** was built in the first century AD it was designed with four concentric, elliptic rings. They were used for all kinds of things, one of the most fascinating thing I found out about the rings were that they had a perfect hydraulic drainage system. The internal veins or the “vomitoria” gathered and lead away any water filtering down from the outside of any of the rings. This might be one of the reasons why the **Arena** in Verona is still in an excellent state of preservation. Another reason is that the **Arena** was always in use and was promptly renovated when needed.

Going back to ancient times, some literary and archaeological evidence suggest gladiator fights took place in Verona. There was even a school for gladiator fighting here. However, there is no concrete evidence to suggest that the martyrdom of Christians has ever taken place. In the following twenty centuries there were to be many heretics burnt at the stake, “Judgments of God”, ordeals, tournaments, whirls, jousts and especially popular right up to the nineteenth century were the bull fights.

During the 1900s the **Arena** also held circus events and witnessed the preparation of hot-air balloons. This is also when the production of theatrical pieces started being held here on a small stage. Also during the nineteenth century, opera come to the Arena, a tradition still going on today. The **Arena**, in its typical Roman structure is the third largest in Italy, after the Colosseum in Rome and the Amphitheatre of Santa Maria Capua Vetere, 16 miles north of Naples.



VERONA HIKING ROUTE

Checkpoint #5 – Verona Arena (cont.)

Entrance fees for the Arena as of February 2018 are:

Adult: 10€

Age 8-14: 1€

Age <8: Free

Groups >15: 7.50€

Verona Arena Hours:

Tue-Sun: 0830-1930

Mon: 1330-1930

In the summer, the opening hours may change due to shows, celebrations nor other events. You are encouraged to check for updates on-line at the Verona Tourism website: Verona Tourism.

45°26'20.4"N 10°59'37.5"E – Piazza Bra, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Now depending on how early you started your tour, you might want to have a snack or lunch. There are plenty of choices around the Piazza Bra, you can get a fast pizza in a small fast food pizza place, or you can wine and dine in a fancy ristorante, or just grab a gelato. It is all up to you.

Now head northeast down the Via Giuseppe Mazzini. This little road is usually crowded with people, as there are plenty of really neat shops for window shopping. Five minutes down the road (including window shopping), turn right into the Via Scala where you can get to our next stop, the Chiesa della Scala, one of the many churches Verona has to offer.

Checkpoint #6 – Chiesa della Scala

Construction on the **church** was begun in 1324 and it was consecrated in 1329. Over the centuries, several additions were added to the church including a convent. In January 1945, the **church** was hit by a bomb but was rebuilt after the war with the renovation complete in 1948.

45°26'27.8"N 10°59'48.3"E – Via Scala, 8, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Head back to the Via Giuseppe Mazzini and continue northeast to the T-intersection. Take a right on Via Cappello to our next stop, the Casa di Giulietta.



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Checkpoint #7 – Casa di Giulietta (Juliet's House)

You should now be standing at the entrance of this romantic thirteenth century **house** and are probably trying to figure out why all the walls are plastered with little pieces of paper. Lovers from all over the world leave their names and messages as a symbol of good fortune and everlasting love for one another. Now, go through the passage way into the courtyard. Right in front of you is a bronze statue of Juliet while to your right is the famous balcony. While the outside of the romantic brick façade **house** with its elegant three-lobed windows is worth seeing, make sure to visit the inside too. Before you go inside, however, let me give you some historical facts about the two lovers. Romeo Montecchi (Montague) and Guilietta Capuleti met and died in 1302. Why did their young lives have to end this dramatically, well the Montecchi were Guelphs who supported the Pope; the Capuleti (Juliet's family) were Ghibellines who supported the HRE. In short, the two families were rivals and the lovers were caught in a terrible feud. One more thing, Shakespeare was not the original writer of "Romeo & Juliet"; Luigi da Porto (of Vicenza) wrote the story in the 1520s. Shakespeare dramatized the story in 1595. Okay, now you can go inside. Once you go up the great staircase, which leads you to a spacious anti-chamber, you can actually step out onto the famous balcony. But do not stop there, just continue going through the various doors, you will end up in the room where Juliet and Romeo died; you can see the clothes they wore, and much more. There are actually 5 floors, hard to believe if you only look at the house from the outside. While you are in the various rooms, take a peek out the windows, especially once you get to the higher levels. Enough romance for the time being? Good, because we are going to see some other interesting historical buildings and places in Verona, before we get to Romeo's house.

45°26'30.9"N 10°59'54.1"E – Via Cappello, 23, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Now head backup Via Cappello the way you came from about 150m to the next stop, the Piazza Erbe.



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Checkpoint #8 – Piazza della Erbe

As you walk through the crowd, look upwards a bit so that you can see the magnificent houses. Some are richly decorated with stucco, others are just painted. Coming from the Via Cappello, just look straight into the distance, there is the Palazzo Maffei, a huge and imposing building. It actually closes in one side of the **piazza**. The rich and characteristic forms are baroque and date back to the seventeenth century. They cover a pre-existing thirteenth century structures. It culminates in a balcony decorated with statues of six divinities (Jupiter, Apollo, Venus, Minerva, Mercury and Hercules). Check out the story of these divinities, there may be a question on the quiz! As you continue looking around the piazza, the Casa Mazzanti with its interesting sixteenth century figurative frescoes on the façade will be to your right. To your left is the La Domus Mercatorum or the Merchants House. It is a fine Romanesque building, which, in a questionable attempt at restoration in the nineteenth century, was crowned with improbable Gothic battlements. Alberto I built the Domus we see today under the Della Scala family in 1301. The structure is stone and brick and in the form of a loggia supported by arches. The earlier Domus was built in 1210 of wood, as was the widespread custom in Verona and elsewhere at the time.

As you continue through the crowds, you will find the Lion of St Mark on its sixteenth century marble column. The wonderful Fountain of Our Lady Verona is in the center of the **piazza**. This is the most Gothic monument created under the Della Scala Family, the rulers of Verona's areas in the later part of the thirteenth and early fourteenth century. The shrine erected in the **Piazza delle Erbe**, better known as the Berlina was where the ceremonial inauguration of every new podesta (Mayor) officially took place. The Berlina we can see today is not the original one. However, on the steps and on one of the sixteenth century pillars the units of measurement from the days of communal government are still legible.

45°26'34.8"N 10°59'49.8"E – Piazza Erbe, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Head northeast between the fountain and the shrine along a passage way leading you to the Piazza Dei Signori, our next stop.



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Checkpoint #9 – Piazza dei Signori

The **Piazza dei Signori**, with its aristocratic features and elegant harmony, was the privileged meeting place for the governing officials of the city. There are many fine buildings surrounding this square such as the Renaissance wing of the Palazzo Comunale or Municipal Chambers (located behind you when you walk in from the Piazza delle Erbe), the Domus Nova which housed the Podestà (building to the left of the Municipal chambers). The Loggia del Cosglio with its eight arches and the double windows separated by fresco work and pilaster stripes was built between 1475 and 1492. The cornice supports five statues by Alberto da Milano. These statues represent the five most illustrious men from Verona in the Roman times: Catullus, Pliny, Marcus, Vitruvius, Cornelius, and Nepos. Opposite the Municipal Chambers is the Palazzo del Capitano. An elegant portal created by Sanmicheli opens up in the sixteenth century façade. This building gets its name from the historical role carried out by the elected major or “Captain” of Verona in these official premises in the time of Venetian dominion. The Palazzo del Capitano boasts a magnificent inner courtyard onto which the elegant Loggia Barbaro and the famous Porta Bombardiera (built in 1687) look out. The Palazzo degli Scaligeri is the House of the Della Scala family. It is unique with its Ghibelline battlements. The Palazzo della Prefettura (Seat of the Prefecture) corresponds to the old Della Scala Palace which was begun in twelfth century but was not completed until the fourteenth century. It underwent several changes in design and style, but was accurately restored and reconstructed to its original structure in the first few decades of the twentieth century.

45°26'36.6"N 10°59'53.0"E – Piazza dei Signori, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Look to the southwest corner of the square and head for our next stop, the Lamberty Tower.

Checkpoint #10 – Torre dei Lamberti (Lamberty Tower)

The courtyard lays in the shadow of the lofty 84m high **Torre dei Lamberti**. There is an elegant Gothic style double flight of stairs leading up to the tower. This flight of stairs is commonly known as the Scala della Ragione (Stairs of Reasons).



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Checkpoint #10 – Lamberty Tower (cont.)

These stairs lead you up into the **tower** where you can climb all 368 steps to the top for a small fee. At the top is a great panoramic view of the city.

45°26'34.6"N 10°59'52.1"E – Via della Costa, 1, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

After you climb down and have a cappuccino or gelato, head northeast to the Arche Scaligere.

Checkpoint #11 – Arche Scaligere (Scaliger Tombs)

The **tombs** are closed off by an elegant wrought iron fence in which the heraldic motif of the Della Scala family is repeated. The area is set out like a military encampment and constitutes the official cemetery of this family. A holy warrior stands on every corner pillar, protected by a spire-shaped canopy, watching over the eternal rest of the family. The two most important **tombs**, complete with canopy and a veritable profusion of decorative sculptures, belong to Cansignorio and Mastino II.

45°26'36.8"N 10°59'55.8"E – Via Santa Maria Antica, 1, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Once you pass these impressive tombs, turn right into the Via delle Arche Scaligere and find your next stop, Casa di Romeo.

Checkpoint #12 – Casa di Romeo (Romeo's House)

This Gothic **house** with its façade in brick was built in the fourteenth century. The **house** Romeo lived in belonged to Cagnolo Nogarola and therefore it is also called Casa Di Cagnolo Nogarola (detto Romeo). It is set up similar to Juliet's home; however, you cannot visit the inside of Romeo's **house** because it is privately owned. Nowadays there is a restaurant on the bottom floor.

45°26'36.8"N 10°59'57.4"E – Via Arche Scaligere, 2, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Go back towards the Arche Scaligere, but this time follow Via Cavalletto to the Corso Santa Anastasia. Turn right and go to the church ahead, Chiesa di Santa Anastasia.



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Checkpoint #13 – Chiesa di Santa Anastasia

The **Chiesa di Santa Anastasia** is the largest basilica of its kind in Verona. The basilica was started in 1280, it was not completely finished until 1400. The Dominican Order built it in the Gothic style and dedicated it to Saint Peter Martyr, a Dominican monk from Verona. He is also a co-patron saint of Verona with Saint Zeno. It was built on the site of a pre-existing temple that was dedicated to Saint Anastasia, hence the name. The church boasts a majestic apse in red brick and a 72 m high bell tower. The façade is divided into three vertical sections corresponding to the nave and the two aisles in the interior. Unfinished, the façade is mostly in brickwork. In the center of the middle section is a simple rose window. The 15th century portal has two doors, and is enclosed in a Gothic structure with arches supported by ornamental columns in red, black and white marble.

Once you enter the **basilica** pay attention to the holy-water fountains, the one on the left is the “fat hunchback”, the one to your right is the “thin hunchback” They were placed in the church to represent the workers of the nearby water mills on the Adige River. Look around and you will find the impressive altar/chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary. All together, there are 17 such chapels that open onto the side aisles and each is unique. Once you leave the basilica look to your right, you will find a tomb similar to the ones at the Arche Scaligere. Entrance fee is 2 Euros and this is a handicapped friendly church. Also, remember that no short pants and short skirts are authorized to be worn in Italian churches, plus your shoulders need to be covered.

45°26'42.2"N 10°59'58.6"E – Via Don Bassi, 2, 37121 Verona VR, Italy

Coming out of the church yard, turn right onto the Via A. Massalongo, then turn right again and you are on the Via Ponte di Pietra, just follow the road down to the river. From there you have a great view of the Ponte della Pietra, our final stop.



VERONA HIKING ROUTE

Checkpoint #14 – Ponte della Pietra (Stone Bridge)

The original **bridge** was built in ancient Roman times around 100 BC and the Via Postumia from Genoa to Aquileia passed over it. Over the years, it has been destroyed by floods, including major floods in 1154 and 1239 and then rebuilt. Eventually it was rebuilt with stone, leading to its current name, **Ponte Pietra**, meaning stone bridge. The remains of the ancient Roman Bridge can be seen on the left bank of the river in two large archways (very light colored stone).

Its five asymmetrical archways underneath help the bridge to survive the current of the river. Because of the sharp bend in the river, the current flows more quickly towards the left bank. Here the **bridge** rests on 4 stone “bows” built to slice through the current where it is at its strongest. In the thirteenth century Alberto I della Scala had the Torri di Guardia (Watch Tower) built, to defend the **bridge**. The most recent damage done to the bridge happened in World War II. When the Germans left the city, they destroyed 4 of the 5 arches of the **bridge**. It was rebuilt in 1957 with the original bridge materials to match photos of the **bridge** from before the bombings. With its asymmetrical structure and the profile of a donkey’s back crossing the Adige River, the **Stone Bridge** has always been a true symbol of the city.

45°26'51.9"N 10°59'60.0"E – Ponte Pietra, Verona VR, Italy

Congratulations, you have finished the Trail...now grab some gelato at the corner of Via Ponte di Pietra and the Piazza Broilo. They make their own ice cream and speak multiple languages!

While the official Verona Historic Trail ends here at the Ponte della Pietra, if you still have energy to go on, here are some other options. You can go over the bridge and visit the Teatro Romano. Or you can continue past the guard tower of the bridge onto the Via Sabbion to the Chiesa del Duomo, the cathedral. We hope you had a great time and, just maybe, we will just run into each other somewhere here in the wonderful city of Verona. Just remember whatever you decide, you and your family have to make it back to the car or the train station!



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ACCEPTED
REJECTED





VERONA HIKE





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HISTORIC TRAIL QUIZ

Verona Hike Questions

1. What does the book in the little park
(near the "Arena") at the "Piazza Bra" say? _____
2. What is the "Arena" used for, especially in the
months of July and August? _____
3. Who is Guilietta? _____
4. What landmarks/statues/objects are in the
center of the "Piazza Erbe"? _____
5. How many steps lead up to the "Lamberty" tower? _____
6. What are the "Arche Scaligere"? _____
7. What style is the church of Santa Anastasia? _____
8. What is the name of the oldest bridge in Verona?
And what river does it cross? _____

Answers on page 23



BSA REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the Verona Historic Trail may complete the following Requirements:

Cub Scouts:

Tiger:

My Tiger Jungle
Tigers in the Wild
Tiger Tales

Req 1
Req 1, 2, 4
Req 7

Wolf:

Paws on the Path
Finding Your Way

Req 1-5
Req 4

Bear:

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns
Paws for Action

Req 1
Req 2B

Webelos:

Webelos Walkabout

Req 1-6



Scouts BSA:

Tenderfoot:

Req 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c

Second Class:

Req 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 6c

First Class:

Req 4a, 4b



*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is a solid black header bar at the top of the page.

NOTES

Quiz Answers: 1) Did you find it?, 2) Performances such as Theater and Opera, 3) Juliet from Romeo and Juliet, 4) The Lion of St Mark and the Fountain of Our Lady Verona, 5) 368 steps, 6) The Della Scala Family Tombs, 7) Gothic, 8) Ponte della Pietra, River Adige



This Historic Trail was put together by Hiltrud Nupp of Troop 295 from Vicenza, Italy along with pictures from Bill Nupp in 2005.

Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org> or by scanning the QR Code below.



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