

## **Pordenone, Noncello River**

The origin of the city of Pordenone is linked to the existence of the port on the Noncello river, which is reported for the first time in 1204 thanks to the travel diary of Wolfer von Erla, former bishop of Passau, then influential and powerful patriarch of Aquileia.

Pordenone, from the latin *Portus Naonis*, in fact is born and develops as a commercial transit city between the Venetian territories and the Norica area, thanks to the water way constituted by the Noncello, a tributary of the Meduna, in turn tributary of the Livenza: all navigable rivers up to the Adriatic.

The Noncello course is quite complex and articulated: the highest upstream source is in the Municipality of Cordenons, but other springs further downstream form rivulets that join the native one, especially in the area of the former *Cotonificio Makò*, in “*via delle Sorgenti e di Torre*”, a district of Pordenone. After Cordenons, at the level of the *Braida Foenis* bridge, the river's course becomes wider and its waters are used by a fish farm bounded by bulkheads, which also have the task of diverting the river to an artificial canal, built for feeding the *Torre* hydroelectric plant. Beyond the basins of *Torre*, the waters of Noncello, divided into several riverbeds, feed two branches that surround the park of the Seminary and then meet just before the city centre. In this stretch the river increases in capacity, thanks to the contribution of the brooks *Vallona*, *Mulini*, *Codafora* and *Brentella* and a small tributary, the *Rio Maj*. In the centre of Pordenone, immediately downstream of the so-called bridge of Adam and Eve were built the docks for loading the goods on the boats, since only from then on the flow of the river is sufficient for a safe navigation. In the eighteenth century, however, it was necessary to move the dock of the port a little further downstream, in the district of *Vallenoncello*; it is hypothesized that the transfer was determined by the increase in river traffic, with the convenience of accepting larger sized and drafting boats, or by a constant and worrying reduction in the river's water flow.

Today, where sailboats and small river boats transported goods and passengers, the Noncello river park unfolds, which is a particularly interesting historical and natural attraction: in fact, in the city centre you can admire the splendid fauna linked to the river ecosystem and a rich spontaneous vegetation, consisting of typical riparian flora.

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