

# WHV – Pile Dwellers for Ten Days: an Excavation Experience in the Bronze Age Pile Dwelling in Lucone

## Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps, Italy

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2011)

## PROJECT DATES

31 July - 11 August 2023

**THE SITE** - This serial property of 111 small individual sites encompasses the remains of prehistoric pile-dwelling (or stilt house) settlements in and around the Alps built from around 5000 to 500 B.C. on the edges of lakes, rivers or wetlands. Excavations, only conducted in some of the sites, have yielded evidence that provides insight into life in prehistoric times during the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Alpine Europe and the way communities interacted with their environment. The settlements are a unique group of exceptionally well-preserved and culturally rich archaeological sites, which constitute one of the most important sources for the study of early agrarian societies in the region.

**OBJECTIVES** - The Fondazione Piero Simoni will utilise its expertise and experience to engage young volunteers in the archaeological excavations in Lucone, part of the transnational site of the Prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps, with the aim of introducing the younger generations to archaeological research in all its forms and the need to protect fragile environments currently threatened by climate change.

**ACTIVITIES** - Field activities will include the management and filing of the archaeological materials found, the search for fish remains in the sediments to reconstruct the weight of these foods in the diet of the lake peoples, and the reception of foreign visitors at the excavation, open to the public every day). The research activity will be accompanied by exchanges and trainings with archaeologists, archaeo-zoologists, paleo-botanists.

**PARTNERS** - Municipality of Gavardo, Municipality of Polpenazze del Garda, Valle Sabbia Archaeological Museum, University of Padua, Istituto per i Beni Culturali del Veneto, Ministero della Cultura - Superintendency for the provinces of Bergamo and Brescia, International Coordination Group Palafittes, association Gruppo Grotte Gavardo, Società Cooperativa La Melagrana.

**Fondazione Piero Simoni**

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