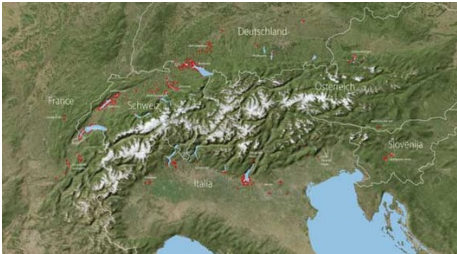




PREHISTORIC PILE DWELLINGS AROUND THE ALPS



This UNESCO site is a transnational serial site involving several European countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Slovenia, and includes 111 dwelling villages. Among these, Lombardy boasts the oldest pile dwellings so far discovered, located on the



lake of Varese, but also several other examples in the Garda area, which accounts for most of the Italian pile dwellings that belong to this site. Due to their special characteristics, the piles are a testimony of the life habits of the first farmers in central Europe, from the Copper to the early Iron Age, creating a rich and hidden heritage, fragile and difficult to valorize.

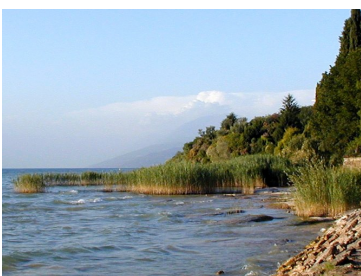


The original glacial lake of **Lavegnone** in the territory of Desenzano and Lonato is today only a small puddle. The dwelling settlement developed between 2213 and 1917 B.C. and the objects found during the excavations are exhibited in the



Archaeological Museum *Rambotti* of Desenzano where the plow, which dates back to 2000 B.C., stands out.

The dock of **Lucone** in Polpenazze is one of the best preserved of the morainic amphitheater of Lake Garda. The excavations have revealed two settlement phases: the oldest (2043-33 B.C.) ended with a fire, while the second was in 1969 B.C. The objects found are displayed in the *Museo archeologico della Valle Sabbia* in Gavardo.



The stilt house found in the lower Garda is located on the bottom of the eastern shore of the peninsula of Sirmione, in **Lugana Vecchia**. The recovered items are exhibited in the *Museo dell'Area archeologica delle Grotte di Catullo*. The submerged stilt, discovered in 1971 in **Gabbiano**, in Manerba del Garda, extends for about 150 m. along the shore of the lake. The materials recovered, which document the life of the stilt, are preserved in the *Museo della Rocca di Manerba*.



For further information: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1363>