

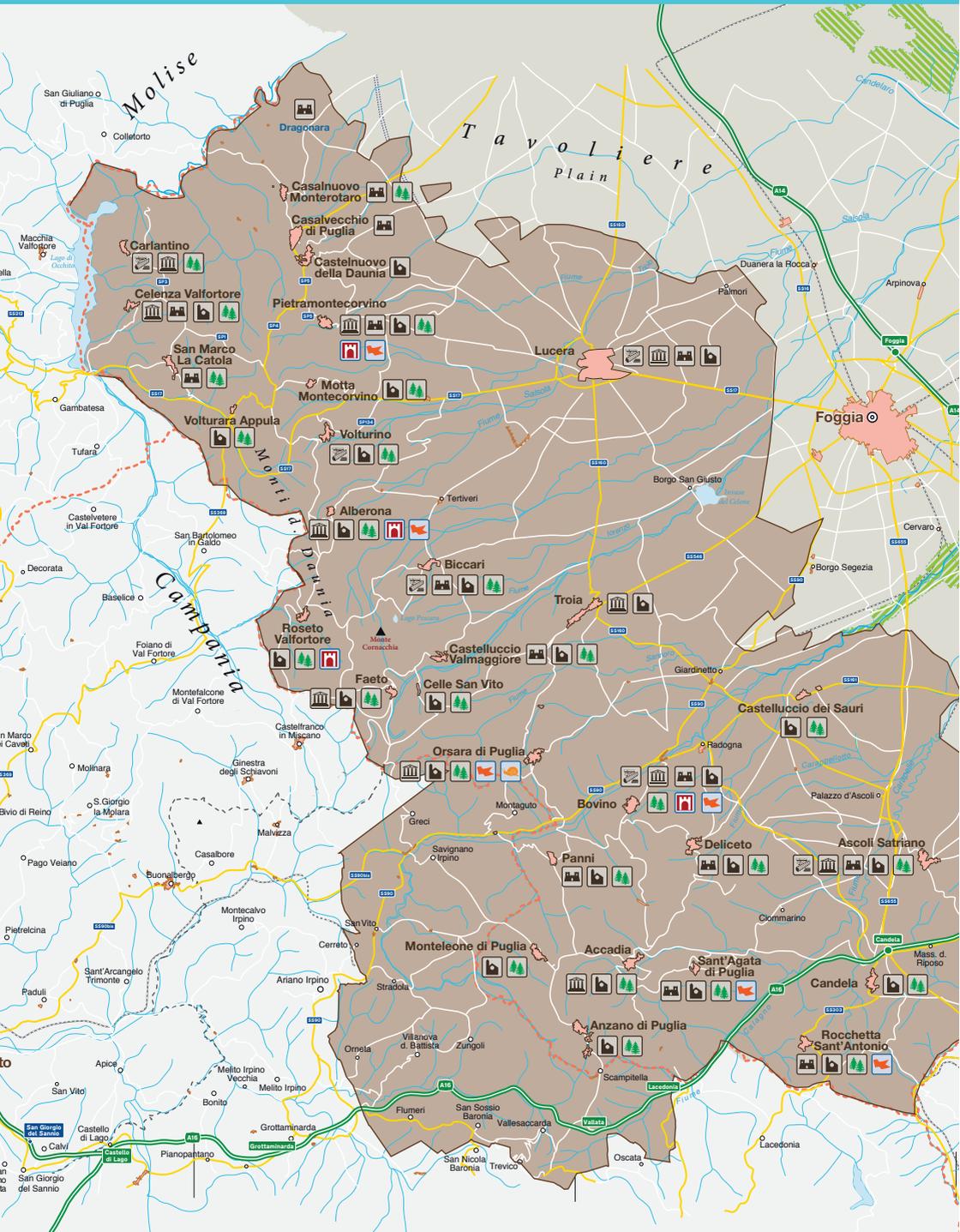
MONTI DAUNI

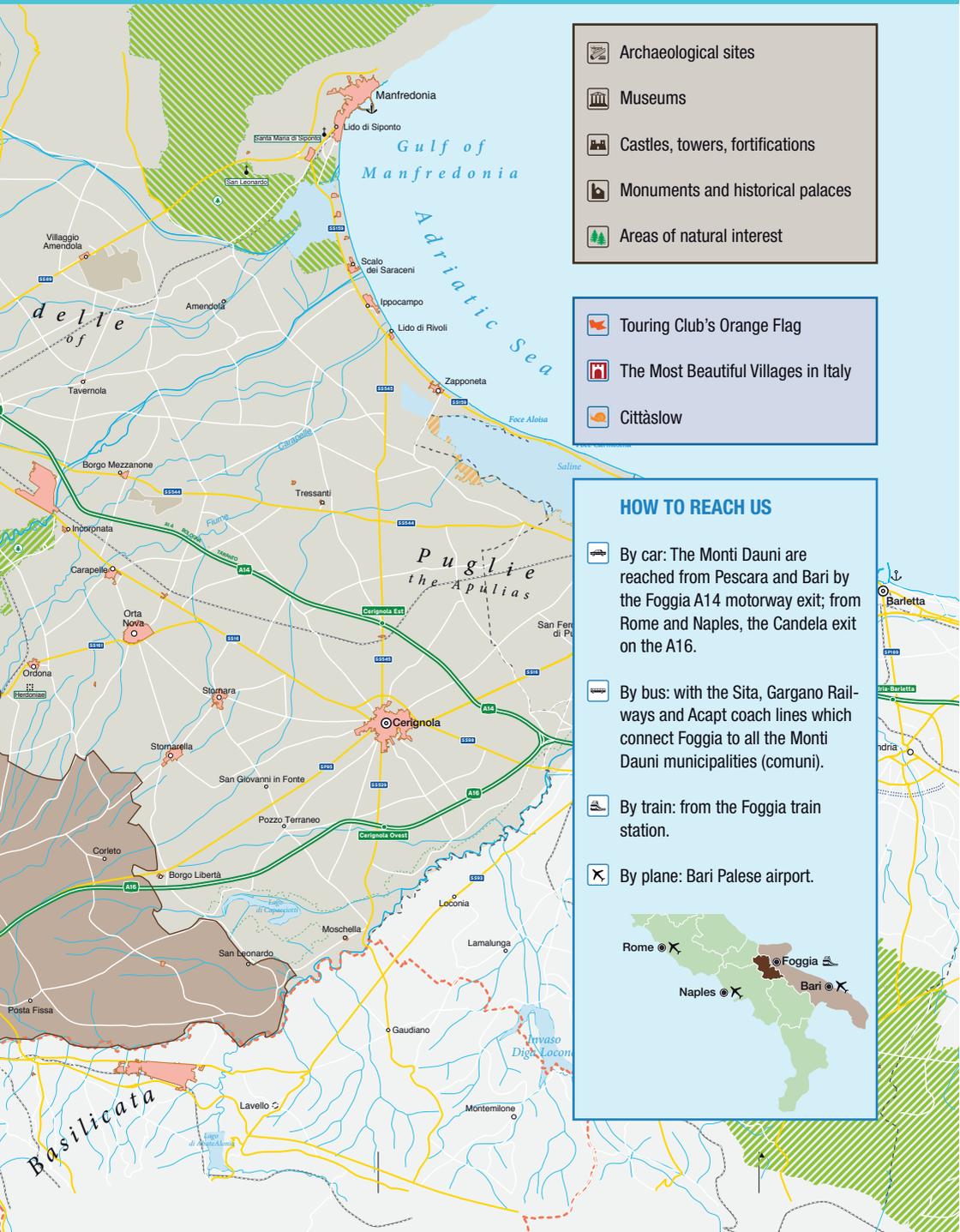
Discover Puglia



GAL MERIDAUNIA

MONTI DAUNI Discover Puglia





-  Archaeological sites
-  Museums
-  Castles, towers, fortifications
-  Monuments and historical palaces
-  Areas of natural interest

-  Touring Club's Orange Flag
-  The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy
-  Cittàslow

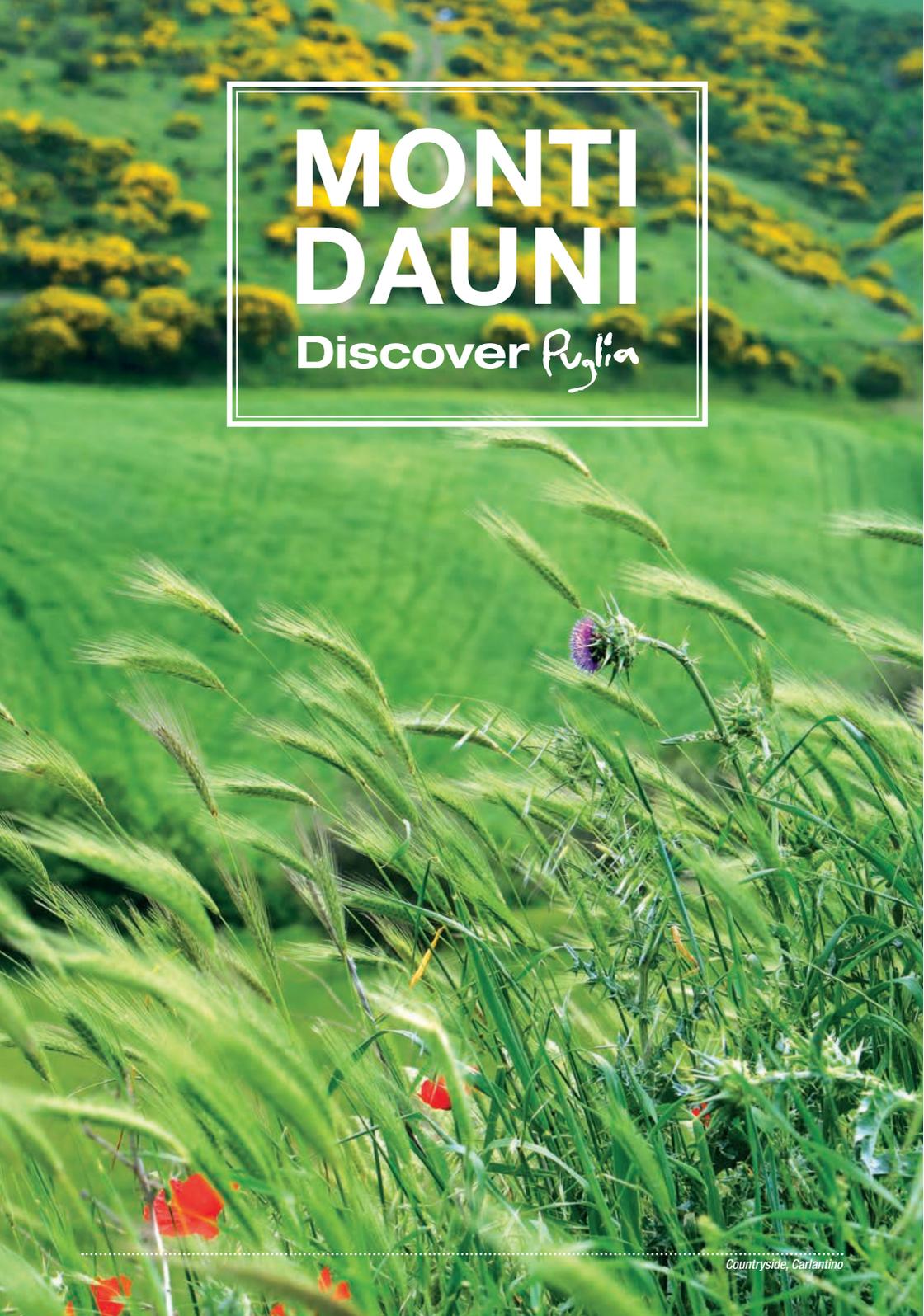
HOW TO REACH US

-  **By car:** The Monti Dauni are reached from Pescara and Bari by the Foggia A14 motorway exit; from Rome and Naples, the Candela exit on the A16.
-  **By bus:** with the Sita, Gargano Railways and Aapt coach lines which connect Foggia to all the Monti Dauni municipalities (comuni).
-  **By train:** from the Foggia train station.
-  **By plane:** Bari Palese airport.



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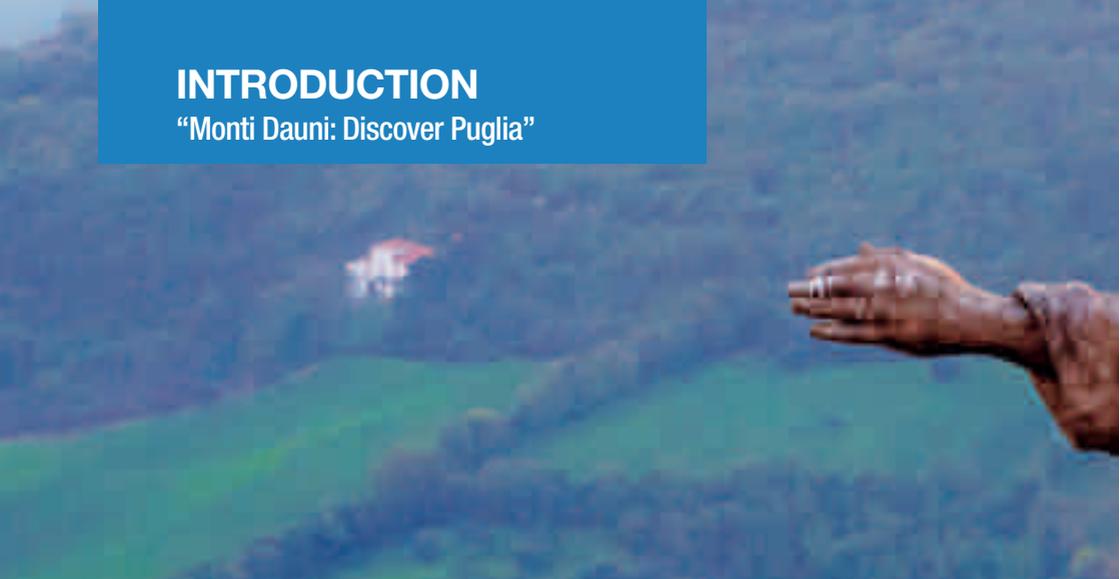


MONTI DAUNI

Discover Puglia

INTRODUCTION

“Monti Dauni: Discover Puglia”



Arriving in the Monti Dauni for the first time you'll be amazed by landscapes, colours and traditions that you wouldn't expect to find in Apulia. You'll be welcomed by honest faces and smiles, by that very special hospitality that you only find in lands historically used to the passage of different people and cultures, of pilgrims and shepherds and transhumance. You'll plunge into an oasis of serenity and peace, lulled by both the sounds and silences of unspoiled nature, where you take a journey through millennia of history.

Returning to the Monti Dauni, on the other hand, is like reconnecting with an old friend: its alleyways, sights, vistas and folk traditions call you back as if you had grown up among these mountains and valleys and your own grandparents had told you the local legends and lore when you were a child.

This is a welcoming land, enthralling and embracing those lucky enough to come here. It rewards patience and curiosity, because many of its treasures can only be discovered with the help of the locals, though rest assured that they will be happy to guide you to them.

As you approach these gentle slopes, and the villages laid out upon them like so many enchanting nativity scenes, their attractions are revealed slowly and almost modestly. These are places that can be experienced throughout the year, enjoying the nuances of the slowly changing seasons.

Spring welcomes you in shades of green, from the light green of the wheat fields to the deep of the forests, broken by patches of yellow (the brightness of broom, the delicate shade of angel's hair), by the red of poppies and by the lilac of Judas trees. The wind blows and you can hear the distant sound of a stream.

“This is a welcoming land, a place that enthralls and embraces those lucky enough to come here”



View of Sant'Agata di Puglia

As you slowly drive up to a hilltop village along panoramic roads, crossed perhaps by foxes or wild boar, look up to see the soaring flight of peregrine falcons and red kites. Stopping at a drinking trough, you may discover newts and wild orchids and you can gather wild herbs, the heart of the traditional local cuisine, as well as asparagus and fava beans.

Breathe in the scent of the elder, burnt in purifying bonfires to celebrate the rebirth of nature, auspicious for a good harvest and to honour the Carpenter Saint. On Easter Sunday in Troia, in front of its magnificent cathedral, witness the strange dance between the statue of the Risen Christ and that of the Madonna, which ends with the Son bowing to the Mother and giving her a rather unorthodox kiss.

In Orsara di Puglia, spend the night inside a cave at the foot of an abbey, keeping vigil over the statue of a Warrior Angel stolen centuries ago then retrieved by a miracle. Wandering through the hills, you can make out the remains of towers and castles beyond the blossoming almond trees. In Pietramontecorvino a gaudy caravan of people can be espied carrying the statue of a Norman Saint from their village to its ancient hilltop abode. Finally, in Carlantino you may chance upon shepherds on the transhumance way making offerings of cheese and ricotta to the Virgin to protect their journey and their flocks.

Summer sweeps you off your feet with the gold of ripe wheat, the yellow of sunflowers and the ever brighter green of oaks and beeches. On the paths criss-crossing the forests, watch hundreds of species of butterflies by day and fireflies at night.

The nights are lit by skies so stary that they appear straight out of a fairy tale... and this is indeed an enchanted place. Its mountains are inhabited

“You will light purifying bonfires to celebrate the rebirth of nature, auspicious for a good harvest and to honour the Carpenter Saint”



by wolves, mischievous gnomes, witches and priestesses of Diana and its forests and valleys were the realm of bandits and brigands.

Enliven your walks by picking blackberries from brambles and cherries, mulberries and figs from trees – though watch out for the farmers jealous of this natural bounty! Your lungs will be filled with the bitter smell of soil and dry grass and the scent of oregano; your ears with the joyous song of hundreds of species of birds.

As you walk along mountain trails, trodden over the centuries by warriors and pilgrims, visit ancient water mills (Bovino, Roseto Valfortore), renaissance straw ovens (Orsara di Puglia, Roseto Valfortore), the tiny house of a distrustful woman (Roseto Valfortore) and villages on their feast days, adorned with ears of wheat. Eat prosciutto in the shade of beech trees, see historical re-enactments and medieval jousting and meet wet defeated knights and dry triumphant ones in San Marco La Catola.

Look for the statue of the Virgin arriving at the village from her forest shrine, escorted by players in costumes from different historical periods in Bovino.

Encounter pilgrimages across the open fields telling of Knights Templar (Alberona) and warrior monks (Orsara di Puglia), of epic battles between Romans and Carthaginians (Carlantino, Castelluccio Valmaggiore), of deported Saracens (Lucera) and Franco-provençal colonies (Celle San Vito, Faeto), of devotion to a Saint who protected these communities from the plague (Monteleone di Puglia), of royal sheep trails and milestones (Anzano di Puglia), of cathedrals erected where mosques once stood (Lucera) and of emperors so enamoured of these places that they considered them a worthy abode of the Lord (Lucera). Visit small

“Summer will sweep you off your feet with the gold of ripe wheat, the yellow of sunflowers and the green of oak and beech”



Countryside, Troia

“When, after the crimson sun has set and the noise of the cicadas wanes, you will hear the sound of man...”

mountain lakes (Biccarì) and huge compacted soil dams (Carlantino, Celenza Valfortore, San Marco La Catola).

Then after the crimson sun has set and the noise of the cicadas has waned, tune in to some man-made sounds: listen to the blues in the enchanting Rione Fossi-Accadia, a mosaic of caves and meandering alleyways; lose yourself in jazz in Orsara di Puglia's graceful medieval piazza; be moved by the eternal power of opera in the courtyard of Deliceto's imposing castle; and join in folk dances at the foot of Pietramontecorvino's majestic Norman tower.

Be entranced by open-air shows and theatre performances along the elegant streets of Troia, a village with an epic name, and discover rare cinematic gems against the beautiful backdrop of Bovino, a place much loved by the seventh art.

Autumn envelops you in a warm embrace with the mottled colour of leaves turning ochre and the aroma of must, rising from wine cellars and spreading through the village streets. Taste newly pressed oil on freshly baked bread and tickle your palate with fleshy pomegranate seeds. Spend evenings in another era, drinking wine in front of an open fire, listening to stories handed down through generations: tales of thwarted love, arrogant squires and *droit de seigneur* (Sant'Agata di Puglia); of bewitched monasteries and Poor Clares battered by the devil (Celenza Valfortore); and of towers built to block the sun from villages beyond the valley (Panni). Then take the time to steal cooking secrets from generous ladies and discover ancient traditions.

Here you can stumble across ancient civilisations and imagine their greatness from jewellery and sublime sculptures, at times looted

then retrieved and now jealously guarded in the local museum of Ascoli Satriano.

Visit special places where you can sense the divine, among Byzantine bas-reliefs (Bovino, Roseto Valfortore), fretwork rose windows (Troia), caves (Orsara di Puglia), tiny country churches, shrines immersed in nature and solemn cathedrals (Ascoli Satriano, Bovino, Lucera, Troia, Volturara Appula). Feel the power of centuries of history through both imposing towers and castles and refined homes that have hosted queens and poets (Bovino). You will be struck by the variety of styles and shapes of the architecture of power: from the solid roundness of Byzantine keeps (Biccari, Castelluccio Valmaggiore) to the incredible architecturally distinctive Renaissance tower, standing out like the prow of a ship over the valley of Rocchetta Sant'Antonio.

See the centuries-old oak tree that stands in the centre of the village of Motta Montecorvino, named after a Saint and celebrated in the most important fair of the Medieval period that took place in the nearby Episcopal seat of Volturara Appula: a gathering place for those that set off on foot for the nearby village fête. Finally, let yourself be enthralled by pagan rites celebrating the union of the living and the dead as you banquet with the souls of your dearly departed in the heat of enormous glowing bonfires and in an atmosphere of joyous sharing in Orsara di Puglia.

Winter brings countryside and villages covered with a blanket of pure white snow, peaceful silence and the smell of wood smoke from the chimneys. Immerse yourself in the Christmas atmosphere at one of the many live nativity scenes (Accadia, Alberona, Candela, Castelnuovo della Daunia, Deliceto, Orsara di Puglia, Volturino) and listen to the Christmas carol "Tu scendi dalle stelle" ("From Stary Skies Thou Comest"), composed right here, in the hills of Deliceto. Above all, take a leap into the past: discover how important it was for a peasant to own a pig, associated as it was with the concepts of abundance and celebration and learn the correct pronunciation of "cajunne" (pig) in Faeto; visit Dauni necropolises and precious imperial villas in Ascoli Satriano; and admire the bridges and remains of Roman aqueducts in Ascoli Satriano, Deliceto and Bovino and the Roman amphitheatres in Lucera. Delight in Celle San Vito, the smallest village in Apulia, enjoy the collections of sacred art, and discover the marks left by the Romans, Swabians and French in the splendid art town of Lucera.

The cold evenings lend themselves to storytelling. In Casavecchio di Puglia, listen to the arbëreshë that tell of ancient chieftains who arrived from overseas. Discover statesmen who helped in the creation of modern Italy in Castelnuovo della Daunia and others that sent it to war in Troia. Hear tales of adolescent martyr Saints in Ascoli Satriano, precious anthropomorphous stones in Bovino and Castelluccio dei Sauri and Byzantine governors with ancient castles that have been turned into farmhouses in Castelnuovo della Daunia.

“Autumn will envelop you in its warm embrace and you will have time to steal cooking secrets from generous ladies and discover ancient traditions”



“You will be
delighted by
the smallest
village in
the whole of
Apulia:
Celle San Vito”



“These are the Monti Dauni: a land rich in enchantments, an incredible mosaic of experience”

The women of Monti Dauni now come to the fore: women who at Carnival time, when bonfires were lit in honour of the patron Saint of animals (Alberona, Roseto Valfortore, Volturino), would sit on swings at the entrance to their houses and sing “sciamboli”, songs which expressed their feelings, love, hopes and frustrations, in a fine balance between poetry and tirade (Biccari, Motta Montecorvino, Pietramontecorvino, Volturino). Women descended from a female brigand who hailed from Casalvecchio di Puglia and fought an invading army. A feminist ahead of her time, she rebelled against a life of misery and a violent husband and took bandit lovers. In Monteleone di Puglia, it was these same women who started the first civil rebellion in Italy against the Fascist Regime.

These are the Monti Dauni: a land rich in enchantments, offering an incredible mosaic of experiences. Are you intrigued? Then discover what “the Apulia you didn’t expect” has in store for you.

Let the journey begin.



MONTI DAUNI

Discover Puglia



-  Archaeological sites
-  Museums
-  Monuments and historical palaces
-  Castles, towers, fortifications

HISTORY AND CULTURE





Detail of the Chiesa di Maria SS. Assunta, Pietramontecorvino. Previous page: reliquary, Diocesan Museum, Bovino

The villages between history and culture

An ideal itinerary on the Monti Dauni, from village to village, through the countryside to discover an ancient people, the Daunii, then the mark of Rome and the traces left by Byzantines, Normans, Swabians, Templars and Crusaders, Angevin and Aragonese, shepherds and brigands. A historical-cultural route has to start from the archaeological sites, the museums, antiquaria, small collections of items and testimonies of the past that almost every village has, to then continue to castles and towers, cathedrals and shrines.

Many villages witnessed periods of great splendour, thanks to being close to a castle or to being an Episcopal seat, and you can often find rich, local museums and archaeological sites. Sometimes you have to make an appointment with the local tourist office to visit them or you could try telephoning the numbers on the village pages of this guide. In addition to the villages and their museums, the entire Monti region itself is an open air museum, with Roman bridges along ancient thoroughfares, the ruins of tiny hamlets that look like sculptures immersed in a pristine landscape.





A little history

We begin a long way away. In a strategic location, close to crossroads and paths, away from the plateau's swamps, the Monti Dauni area played an important part in the neolithic period and even more so from the second millennium BC, when the first **fortifications** were erected, watching the ups and downs throughout the centuries. A land of conquests, like the whole South, the Monti Dauni have seen different many, varied rulers. First the Greeks, then the Iapygians, native to Illyria, present-day Albania. They mixed with the local peoples to give rise to a civilisation that was to flourish, the **Daunii**. A warrior people, there were highly civilised yet, rather ungenerously, not mentioned very much in the history books. They devoted themselves to shepherding and agriculture, ironmongery and pottery and with a marked worship of the dead.

With the Daunii came the first fortified urban settlements. They remained culturally and politically independent until the Roman period, when they formed an alliance with Rome.

With the **Romans**, the local communities enjoyed a time of development, although there were clashes with the Epirians, then the Carthaginians. Villas, bridges and aqueducts were built and some very interesting ruins can be seen.

In the **medieval period**, the Monti Dauni landscape and urban architecture began its metamorphosis. The **Byzantines** built a system of defensive strongholds along the northern Apulia border, establishing fortified towns of which only a few traces remain. Under the

“A land of conquest like the entire South, Monti Dauni have seen different successive rulers”



Swabian-Angevin Fortress, Lucera

Normans, agriculture, shepherding and trade developed, taking advantage of the Roman road network. The **Swabians**, especially with **Frederick II** who loved this land, renovated and extending Norman castles, turning them into aristocratic mansions, as well as defensive locations. In the same way, the most beautiful churches, many of them consecrated to Our Lady, date back to the Swabian rule of Apulia. Provençal colonies were introduced by the Anjou, who took **Lucera** from the Saracens.

The influence of that past is still strongly felt today, especially in the linguistic islands of **Faeto** and **Celle San Vito**. Transhumance activities developed tremendously under **Alphonsus of Aragon** and, for four centuries, until the **“Dogana della Mena delle Pecore”**, (“Shepherding Customs”) was abolished in the 1800s, it was pivotal to the region’s economy. The herds used to cross the natural amphitheatre of the mountains in autumn (to return in spring), following three of the most important Italian sheep trails, from the peaks of the Abruzzo Apennines to the Apulian plateau: Castel di Sangro-Lucera, Celano-Foggia and Pescasseroli-Candela. Today, many walking itineraries now include parts of these sheep trails.

In recent times, the Monti Dauni were affected by the fighting between Spain and France for the Kingdom. With the Restoration and the return of the Bourbons, the Monti, with the forests and valleys, provided excellent terrain for brigandage. The vallo di Bovino became famous as the perfect refuge for bands of brigands. The **“Traditions: transhumance and brigandage”** visitor centre in the Norman Tower of Pietramontecorvino tells this story well with the aid of multimedia.

“The herds used to cross the natural amphitheatre of the mountains in autumn, following three of the most important Italian sheep trails”



The Gryphons, Museum Hub, Ascoli Satriano

The marks of man - Archaeology

The journey starts in a dark room, hung with black draperies, where light plays on fine marble. Your gaze falls on the **podanipter** (ritual basin used to wash feet), with polychrome mythical depictions. Then you notice a pair of gryphons slaying a doe and are left almost breathless, such is the elegance and force of the scene. We are in **Ascoli Satriano** in the “**Pasquale Rosario**” **Archaeological Museum**, in the “**Policromie del Sublime**” section. The gryphons on the **trapezophoros** (a support for a ritual table), a complex of precious marble items from Aphrodisias of Caria (in present-day Turkey), highlight the splendour of the people that came from Illyria to settle in northern Apulia, calling the area Daunia, in honour of their king.

The greatness of the Daunian civilisation can also be seen in the funerary furnishings at the **Dauni Archaeological Park** on the Collina del Serpente, once an important Daunian settlement: fine glass bowls for perfumes and ointments, amphorae and ceramic and marble vases, gold, bronze and silver jewellery, bearing witness to the luxury in which the Daunian women lived (“**Lo spreco necessario**” – **P. Rosario Museum**).

The magnificence does not stop here, though. Ascoli’s **Faragola Archaeological Park** has a series of settlements from the 4th century BC, overlapping Daunian, republican, Roman and medieval items. A true delight for archaeology lovers: incredible overlaying of history! The late imperial rooms are stunning, featuring the elegance of the **cenatio** (dining room), containing a rare and fine **stibadium** (banquet divan) in masonry – they were normally made of wood – with two elbow rests (only two other examples exist, one in Spain, the other in Rome).

The rediscovery of the gryphons

*At the end of the 1970s a grave robber finds the 4th century BC **trapezophoros** and **podanipter** in a Daunian burial chamber. He sells them to the famous art dealer Giacomo Medici, who in his turn sells them to an international trafficker. In 1985, the pieces are purchased by the Paul Getty Museum of Malibu. On his death bed, the grave robber confesses. In 2007, after an intense intelligence operation between the Carabinieri and the Guardia di Finanza, the masterpieces are discovered, together with a 2nd century AD statue of Apollo, which had also been stolen. In 2010, the pieces finally returned home and can be enjoyed in the museum at **Ascoli Satriano**.*



Stele, "Nicastro" local museum, Bovino

Asculum was the scene for events that strengthened the Roman power in the South: the battle against the Epirians for control over Magna Grecia. It gave us the phrase a "**Pyrrhic Victory**" since the Hellenic army won but with such severe losses that Pyrrhus himself exclaimed: "Another victory like this and I will return home without an army!"

The history of the Monti Dauni is much older than these stories, though, and we just need to look at the land itself, which bears the oldest marks made by man in southern Italy: the grave in Grotticella of the "Lady of Biccari" dating from the Neolithic (4th millennium BC).

The **statues-menhir**, date to the 3rd millennium BC and are the first human anthropomorphic artefacts, related to megaliths (dolmen, menhir) and the very first stone constructions. The most important examples of these statue-stele have been found in **Sant'Agata di Puglia** (some are visible in the courtyard of the **Imperial Castle** of Sant'Agata) and in **Castelluccio dei Sauri**.

The stones of **Bovino** tell of an ancient town (**Vibinum**) whose remains are today mostly under the earth, like the caves dug out of the sandstone, and the *opus signium* (coccio pesto, crushed earthenware). The stones were probably related to the **Roman aqueduct**, the remains of which can be seen just outside the village (at Mura ad Arco). These ancient cisterns are nowadays called "**Cantine Cerrato**".

The wealth of archaeological sites, of different era, is such that most treasures are still waiting to be discovered, under crops or under more recent villages and towns. This is what happened to Vibinum, as well as **Aecæ**, which was reborn Byzantine as **Troja**.

The proto celebration of the feminine and masculine

The "**Carlo Gaetano Nicastro**" museum in the beautiful Palazzo Pisani in **Bovino** is home to some remarkable finds including two megalith stone funerary monuments. The first is a stylised woman: a trunk with no limbs or head, but there is a necklace, breasts marked by an x, the navel, the hips, a belt and the pubic triangle. The second is a man: a dagger from which a liquid gushes forth, an explicit allegory of his virility.



Lapidarium, Orsara di Puglia

In some cases, studies and excavations were started then interrupted, as in Casalene and Serra di Panni. On the **Casalene** hill, at the foot of Bovino the layered traces of a settlement modified several times over the centuries were found. The original centre, with walls and mosaics unearthed, dates to a Roman villa with baths. In the valley between Bovino and Panni is the **Serra di Panni**, where excavations found masonry structures and brick floors in the *opus spicatum* style (herringbone). The archaeological finds span the 2nd century BC to the 7th century AD.

On the other side of the Cervaro valley, the **Lapidarium** and the local **Diocesan Museum dell'Angelo** of **Orsara di Puglia** tell us about prehistoric times (through flint spearheads and almond-shaped hand axes), Roman history (through statues, amphorae, coins, votive plates, oil lamps, fibulae, fragments of sculptures) and the Middle Ages (with coats of arms, decorations and arch voussoirs decorated with the gryphon motif). There are many small museums and antiquaria that preserve a proud past. *"The High Celone Valley... in montibus vicatim habitantes"* (villages in the mountains) is the title of the permanent archaeological exhibition, as well as the pathway describing the settlement's evolution from prehistoric times to the Middle Ages, housed by the local museum of **Faeto (Mu.Civi.Te)**, which is based in the elegant 16th century **Casa del Capitano**.

The **Antiquarium** of **Alberona** preserves ancient epigraphs, bucchero vases, decorative polychrome pottery and Daunian pottery with its typical geometric decoration. The fine **Palazzo Vassalli** houses the **Accadia Town Museum**, with pre-Roman (the Dardanians introduced worship of Acca Dea here) and Roman finds, and two beautiful Byzantine statues of the Saints Peter and Paul. Not far from the village, at **Murge di**

Hannibal! Where?

*Identifying exactly where the greatest battle of the Second Punic War took place is a controversial issue. Some researchers, following documentation and archaeological surveys, believe that the epic battle didn't actually take place at Canne, but rather on the right bank of the river Fortore, near **Carlantino**. Other historians suggest the Canne battle happened in the Celone valley, near **Castelluccio Valmaggiore**, where the Byzantine tower houses a **Meta Museum on the Battles**.*



"Casa del Capitano", Faeto

Centra, is an incredible overlaying of history: from the Sannite period to the medieval.

Pre-Roman, Roman and medieval finds can also be seen in the **Archaeological Museum of Celenza Valfortore**. The *Gracchus cippus* is engraved with the names of Marcus Fulvius Flaccus and Caius Sempronius Gracchus and describes the methods for fairly allocating the lands conquered by Rome. Another **Cippus**, of a different kind, is at Mastralesio (**Anzano di Puglia**), near the Pescasseroli-Candela Royal Sheep trail. It is a marble cylinder with engraved figures and inscriptions. The stone, of Hellenic origins, may have been connected to the worship of "Magna Mater", the Great Mother.

The water in **Lake Occhito** withdraws in the summer to reveal the remains of a **prehistoric village**. Around 2,000 archaeological items dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods have been unearthed at **Monte S. Giovanni** and **Santo Venditti**. Some are preserved in the **Carlantino Archaeological Museum**.

The most significant signs of ancient Romans come from the **Luceria** colony. The **Roman Amphitheatre**, built to honour Augustus by the magistrate Marcus Vecilius Campus, is the most important ancient Roman structure in Apulia. Neglected in the Middle Ages, it was progressively covered by soil, but in 1932, work began to clear it and the **Statue of Caesar Augustus** was found on the site, nowadays kept near the Town Hall.

The 18th century Palazzo De Nicastrì-Cavalli houses the "**Giuseppe Fiorelli**" **Museum**: documenting the millenarian history of **Lucera**. The epigraph and stone sections are rich indeed: inscriptions, arks, pottery,

“There are many small museums and antiquaria that bear witness to a prestigious past, such as the Mu.Civi.Te of Faeto”



Torre della Leonessa, Fortress of Lucera

ceramics, milestones, capitals, friezes, bas-reliefs. The statuary collection includes a marine Venus in Greek-Roman style, a terracotta bust of Proserpine, a head of Minerva medica.

The Monti Dauni do not only offer archaeology sites of the “classics”. The remains of ancient towns and medieval castles are innumerable.

In **Lucera**, scenically located to command the town and the flatland, are the ruins of the **Swabian-Angevin Fortress** built in the 13th century. **Frederick II** had the *palatium* (of which only traces remain) built on the hill where the ancient Roman acropolis was, on the ruins of a Romanesque cathedral. It was used to control the Colony of Saracens deported from Sicily. Later **Charles d’Anjou** built the walls of the magnificent **Angevin Fortress**. The visual impact of what is left is impressive. The castle’s irregular, boundary walls run around the entire hill and are **900 metres** long. There are two corner cylindrical towers for the Lion and Lioness.

The ruins of the **Byzantine towns** are superb. Built in the early 11th century by the **Catapani Basilio Bojohannes** (father and son shared the same name), they defended the borders of the kingdom from the Longobard neighbours.

Vaccarizza, is called a medieval Pompei for the wealth of finds unearthed and is not far from **Troja**, which in its **Town Museum (Palazzo D’Avalos)**, with Byzantine crosses and sarcophagi, preserves pre-Roman and Roman age tools and a section of paving from the Via Trajana. **Dragonara** in the **Castelnuovo Della Daunia** countryside is also part of these settlements, of which only the castle is still visible. Of the original construction, only the towers remain and it looks more like

“Frederick II had the Palatium built on the hill where the ancient Roman acropolis was and on the ruins of a Romanesque cathedral”



Tower of Montecorvino (The Devil's Chair), Volturino

a fortified farmstead, standing alone with its four towers, two cylindrical and two square. But in the past it must have been an actual fortress. Near **Biccari**, on a hilltop, are the ruins of the ancient Watchtower of **Tertiveri**, a town that welcomed Christians fleeing Lucera, after it became Frederician and Muslim.

On a hill, like a sculpture, are the remains of an imposing Tower, called the “Devil’s Chair”. This is **Montecorvino (Volturino)**. When it was destroyed, people fled and resettled in Pietramontecorvino, Motta Montecorvino and Volturino. The tower was part of a building that encompassed the nearby cathedral, consecrated to Sant’Alberto. Many of the finds unearthed at the site are housed in the **Parish Archaeological Museum at Pietramontecorvino** which is in the Duke’s Palace.

“On a hill like a sculpture, stand the remains of an imposing tower: the Devil’s Chair”



Castello di Dragonara, Castelnuovo della Daunia

The architecture of power

Castles and towers of all ages, places that witnessed significant events: the Monti Dauni are dotted with these marks, and others, of temporal power. On these flagstones, in these fortresses, you can still hear the echo of the hooves of horses as they were led into battle by Frederick II or by Charles d'Anjou. These mansions have hosted the Kings and Queens of Austria and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

For those who feel like reading, this area is a history book in stone: at first glance, you think the castle is Norman, but then you notice the Roman features, then the Byzantine ones, then the Swabian additions, then the Angevin.

The Towers of Biccari and Castelluccio Valmaggiore however appear pure, not having undergone any subsequent modifications.

In the early years of 1000, the **Byzantines** started constructing colossal fortifications in the Monti Dauni, the border area with the Longobard rulers. The two imposing and cylindrical **Towers of Biccari** and **Castelluccio Valmaggiore**, overlooking the villages, were probably part of this defensive system.

The square **Norman tower** of **Monterotaro**, located 6 kilometres from **Casalnuovo**, is a sign to the Castellum Montis Rotari. There are no certain sources regarding the first settlement and construction of the castle, but it's likely that it was the last Longobard stronghold facing the Orient. Its function, too, is uncertain. It doesn't appear to be a military garrison since it is not on a hill. Not far from here is the **Castello di Dragonara**: the only castle in the open countryside and the only one to have been turned into a farmstead.

“On these flagstones, in these fortresses, you can still hear the echo of the hooves of horses being led into battle by Frederick II or Charles d'Anjou”



Castello di Bovino

The **Castello di Bovino** had a different fate. It majestically commands the village, on the same spot where once stood a Roman fort. Altered by the Byzantines, it then became the Norman Drogo. Only the extraordinary angular "knight" tower remains of the Norman walls, set in a **Cassero** (keep), the only trace of the reconstruction ordered by Frederick II. It saw continuous modifications and additions over the centuries because it was in a strategic position on an outcrop that controls the Cervaro Valley, a key link between Naples and Apulia and the main reason for its enduring magnificence through the centuries.

Today it houses the **Diocesan Museum**, which holds treasures from the ancient Diocese of Bovino as well as hosting concerts and theatre shows. The main wings of the palace can be visited to see the statue of the Duke Inigo Velez De Guevara, who was viceroy of Naples. It was done by Giovanni Amendola, who also did the statue of Gioacchino Murat in the Royal Palace of Naples and those decorating the façade of the Royal Palace of Caserta. There is also an elegant 18th century clock tower and the hanging gardens overlooking the village are gorgeous.

The Castle of Kings, Popes and Poets

*The Castle passed from one owner to the next until the sixteenth century when Bovino was sold to Delfina di Loffredo, mother of **Don Giovanni De Guevara**. The Guevara Dukes, whose descendants lived in the castle until 1961, gradually transformed it into a rich mansion. Over the centuries, kings and many an illustrious person have stayed here such as Manfred of Sicily, Torquato Tasso, Giovan Battista Marino, Mary Theresa of Austria and Pope Benedict XIII.*



Deliceto Castle

The **Deliceto Castle**, unlike that of Bovino, has a decidedly military appearance with its powerful and austere bulk. Built in the 11th century by the Normans, it preserves the square tower, attributed to Tristaino. The castle underwent several transformations and extensions over the centuries, the most substantial being carried out at the behest of Charles I d'Anjou in the 13th century, following a Saracen raid that damaged it. From a triangular form, the layout became trapezoidal and imposing circular towers were built. Of these, the tower called Parasinno was used as a prison and held a torture device with the sinister name of "razor mill".

The **village of Panni** is instead dominated by the ruins of a **Tower**, called *u Zecc*, of uncertain age, which stood where a lookout fort probably existed in Roman times. The tower was 13 metres high and defended the Cervaro Valley. It was destroyed in the 1732 earthquake.

With the Swabian rule, and especially with **Frederick II**, almost all Norman castles were strengthened, and in some cases modified to become hunting residences or mansions with a court life just as important as the military and defensive life. The castles of Ascoli Satriano, Lucera and Pietramontecorvino were built anew in this phase.

The building that stands right on top of the hill of **Ascoli Satriano** has kept little of the ancient castle which was home to the lords of the town from the 13th century. In the 17th century it passed into the hands of the dukes Marulli, who turned it into a **Duke's Palace**, of which a fine portal with seven arched windows can be appreciated today.

The **Frederician Palatium of Lucera** was a majestic three-storey tower, with an inner courtyard and square base. The talus walls are still

The fairytale tower (Panni)

Once upon a time there were two villages, separated by a valley and a river. This was a good thing since the two villages were not exactly on the best of terms. When one village built a tower to keep the other in permanent shade, the other village replaced the clappers in the bell with corn cobs so only they could hear the striking of the hour. One village was without sunlight, the other without time.





Norman Tower, Pietramontecorvino

visible. According to the reconstruction by Willemsen, the third storey had an octagonal layout, based on the layout of Castel del Monte. The building contained the royal apartments, rooms for the court and, in the dungeons, dormitories for the garrisons.

Moving away from Lucera and inland we encounter the hillock on which stands **Pietramontecorvino**. Here, in a commanding position overlooking the valley where the Rio Morto flows, we find the **Norman Tower**, the original heart of a complex that developed over the centuries and was genesis of the village: the **Duke's Palace**.

The tower, solid and powerful, was added to with Gothic windows and a balcony. The interior has been well restored, blending the ancient with the modern. The original wooden spiral staircase is incredible and there is a Visitors' Centre describing Traditions and Brigandage. The palace features a number of other interesting rooms, halls and courtyards, including what used to be the hanging garden.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful views of the Monti Dauni – but how can anyone say that? everything is a triumph of incredible views! – is from the **Imperial castle of Sant'Agata di Puglia** which encompasses the plateau, Irpinia and Vulture, as well as the Monti Dauni. It overlooks the Carapelle river valley, the strategic crossroads with the via Appia in Roman times.

In fact a fort, the *Artemisium*, existed in Roman times and continued to be used throughout the Middle Ages, eventually taking name Sant'Agata in the 6th century. It later became a Longobard outpost (the boundary walls are still visible), then a Norman one. But it was under **Frederick II** that the castle, included among the *castra exempta*,

Erm... how do you get in?!

The remains of the Castle at Lucera present a puzzle: since there were no entrances at ground level, how did people come and go? The most likely theory is that access to the higher levels was gained through removable ladders. Another theory, even more fascinating and prompted by archaeological excavations, is that subterranean passages were used. This would be a unique way to defend a fortress, underlining the importance attributed to the Lucera stronghold by Frederick II.



and hence directly managed by the Emperor, started to adopt its current appearance, although modifications continued under the Angevins and Aragonese.

The castle was transformed from a fortress into a noble residence, first by the Orsini, then by the Loffredos. Today it houses a Visitors' Centre on "The Middle Ages and Frederick II" and still looks imposing with its corner towers. The large, remarkable portal in ribbed stone with arch is topped with two marine animals and the Loffredo coat of arms.

In the Angevin period, villages were passed between various French knights and seigneurs. Some rebuilt, other extended. With the advent of the Aragon, however, castles were not only places for defence but became hunting residences too and, especially, extensions of court life. This transformation in the role of the castle arguably reached its zenith in the Bourbon age.

The last Castles to be built in the Monti Dauni were those of San Marco La Catola, Celenza Valfortore, and Rocchetta Sant'Antonio.

The village of **San Marco La Catola** was overlooked by an imposing **fortified palace, Castello Pienatelli**. The construction date is uncertain, but it is thought to be of Angevin origin and it belonged to the Marquises Pignatelli.

At the top of the hill, above **Celenza** stands the **Castello dei Gambacorta** (15th century). Originally with a trapezoidal layout and five towers (as noted from the coat of arms), the building was partly modified in the 17th century, when the walls of the hanging garden were rebuilt. Only one of the crenellated towers, three fine loggias and a covered courtyard remain of the ancient castle. A tower, once a prison, was burned down in 1799 by the Neapolitan revolutionaries. Today it is private property.

Rocchetta Sant'Antonio contains the ruins of a fortress which was probably Byzantine: **Castel Sant'Antimo**. Unfortunately the castle was almost completely destroyed by the 1456 earthquake. But the **Castle** built in 1507 by **Ladislaus II of Aquinas**, perhaps built by Francesco di Giorgio Martini, still stands, majestic and elegant overlooking the valley. The Renaissance building features a unique ogival crenellated tower, resembling the prow of a ship. This splendid architecture is also private property.

The barber of Rocca di Sant'Agata

Captain Agatone, lord of Sant'Agata, was not exactly an Adonis (just look at his likeness on the entrance to the castle). But his appearance was more than compensated for by his cunning and cruelty. When his barber was about to marry, he begged the Captain not to exercise ius primae noctis – the right of the seigneur. He met with a mocking refusal. The desperate barber then proceeded to shave his Captain a little closer and a lot deeper than usual...Some commanders fall in battle, others under the razor of an angry man.

"U jòc da Jalètt" (San Marco La Catola)

The equestrian tournament of the Jalletta takes place every 20th August under the walls of Castello Pignatelli. The name comes from the special wooden tub, with a ring on its base, which makes the game. The tube is filled with water and suspended between two balconies. Knights from the seven areas in the village then try to drive a stick through the ring avoiding, obviously, the drenching they'll get if they hit the tub. A commentator is always ready to taunt the clumsiest participants.





Rose Window in the Troia Cathedral

The ways of the sacred

Signs of the close relationship between man and the divine are not hard to find in the Monti Dauni. Just with the churches, worship can be traced back of years. **Troia** is, perhaps, the religious fulcrum of the Monti Dauni, as seen by the structure of the village, marked by the **Via Francigena** which, in the Middle Ages, was used by thousands of pilgrims.

The **Cathedral to Santa Maria Assunta** will leave you breathless for the refinement of the decorations in the fretwork rose window, the variety of geometric decorations, the refinement of the human figures and animals that seem to come to life from the stone. It's hard to believe that it was built between the 11th and 12th centuries by the bishop, Girardo, from Piacenza. Its distinctive feature, unique even in the Apulian Romanesque context, is the **rose window**, a compendium of different styles and the only one in the world with 11 rays instead of 12. The bronze doors, by Oderisio of Benevento are incredibly valuable and beautiful.

The **Diocesan Museum** holds many works of religious art, such as the magnificent statue of *"Our Lady"* by Giovanni da Casalbore and the canvas painting *"San Giovanni di Dio"* by Luca Giordano.

The whole town is like a museum of religious architecture: among churches and monasteries the small **Chiesa di San Basilio Magno** stands out, it's the oldest and was first mentioned in a parchment from 1087. Solemn and austere, it reveals its proto-Romanesque origins, despite many later alterations.

From the ecclesiastical splendour of Troia, travelling backwards on the Via Francigena, we reach **Faeto**, a Franco-Provençal village that

"Exultet" (Troia)

This was the first word from the Easter liturgical chant. Written on a long parchment, the exultet was unrolled by the cantor on the pulpit, showing the back of the parchment to the faithful. It featured finely illuminated illustrations, a visual commentary of the Easter Proclamation, and if you didn't understand Latin, you could still follow the service. Only 33 of these extremely rare parchments remain, three of which are in Troia, with other wonders, in the Cathedral.



Abbey Complex, Orsara di Puglia

sheltered a Waldensian community, persecuted by the Holy Office in the 15th century. Pope Pius V rushed to stem the spread “of the Waldensian heresy” and had the elegant **Chiesa di San Salvatore** built, a rare example of Renaissance architecture, using materials taken from the nearby monastery of the same name and of which there is no longer any trace.

Not far from Faeto, near the “masseria” farmstead of the Maresca counts, and towards **Celle San Vito**, are the fascinating ruins of the **Chiesetta di San Vito** (*Sant’Uite*), dating to the 12th century. On 8th August, a procession takes the statue of the saint from the pretty **Chiesa di Santa Caterina** at Celle to the church consecrated to him. The cortège features women wearing crowns made of leaves.

A compulsory stop for pilgrims, whether heading to the Holy Land or to Monte Sant’Angelo, was **Orsara di Puglia**. Here we find, balanced over a ravine, the **l’Abbazia dell’Angelo**, a complex of three sites: the **Saint Michael Cave**, a place of worship and pilgrimage from the 8th century, the 11th century **Chiesa dell’Annunziata** with an unusual military look to it, and the 16th century **Chiesa di San Pellegrino** (restored in the last century), which features a beautiful bronze portal by Iorio Vivarelli.

In the 13th century, the *nullius* Abbey was home to the **Knights of Calatrava**, Spanish warrior monks, who had been summoned by Pope Gregorius IX to halt the Saracens in Lucera.

Take time to visit the **Diocesan Museum** and the wooden choir stalls from the Abbey and the **antifonari** (a type of decorated book that contains the chants for the *officium chori* and that predates the invention

“Quis ut Deus” (Orsara di Puglia)

The magnificent Angel is a stark reminder that nobody is like God. In reality, though, in Orsara, everything reminds us of that fact. The abbey’s layout, once consecrated to the Holy Trinity, was not coincidental, being constructed above the Cave of the Archangel to emphasize a sort of celestial hierarchy and counter the heresy of Cerinthus of Antioch, who said that Angels had created the world.





Bovino Cathedral

of the pentagram). Go to the **Chiesa Madre di San Nicola** for the beautiful statues of the Archangel Michael and Our Lady of the Snow.

Going through the Cervaro valley, we reach **Bovino**. The **Cathedral** appears suddenly as we walk through the San Martino area. The building, in a stern and imposing Romanesque style, features Byzantine elements and probably dates back to the 10th century. It has been restored and modified several times: in the 13th century by the Gallic architect Zano, in the Baroque period, and then at the turn of the 20th century by the architect Ceschi, who cleaned the Baroque decorations from it. Everyone immediately notices the façade: it's asymmetrical! An open staircase on the transept takes you directly to the **Cappellone di San Marco d'Eca**. Of uncertain age, it was consecrated in the 12th century and holds a relic belonging to the village's patron saint. The bas-relief lunette above the access from the street is beautiful. The **Diocesan Museum** in the castle holds a piece of the Sacred Thorn set in a reliquary Cross and the San Marco arm reliquary with monstrance by Pietro Vanini. The ancient Episcopal seat is dotted with religious buildings and you shouldn't miss the **Chiesa dei Santi Apostoli Pietro e Paolo**, for its rare beauty and the simplicity of the Romanesque style; and the **Chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie**, where the relics from San Celestino are preserved and is home to the Confraternita della Buona Morte.

"The Virgin and the Woodcutter" (Bovino)

*The hero is the woodsman Niccolò. In his dreams an unyielding Madonna asked for a Church to be built and dedicated to her in the Forest of Mengaga. So the little church of the **Madonna di Valleverde** became a place of pilgrimage and a shrine. From here, every 29th August, the Virgin's statue is escorted to the Cathedral by a cortège dressed in period (**Cavalcata Storica**) to remember the faith of the Bovinesi and their illustrious guests from medieval times of the apparition (1266), to today.*



Santuario della Madonna della Consolazione, Deliceto

Another stop on our religious route is **Deliceto**, for the solemn **Chiesa Madre del SS. Salvatore**, the **Church and Monastery of Sant'Antonio da Padua**, but especially for the **Santuario della Madonna della Consolazione**. Immersed in the forest in Valle in Vincoli, it is one of the shrines dearest to the tradition of the **Children of St. Alfonso Maria De Liguori**, who stayed here for two years. He composed the famous *"Tu scendi dalle Stelle (From Starry Skies Thou Comest)"*.

After Deliceto, **Sant'Agata di Puglia** is worth a visit for its religious statues and the **Chiesa di San Nicola**. The layout is Norman and was rebuilt in the 16th century. The church contains some 17th century statues, a Grieving Madonna of exceptional historical value and beauty welcomes you in the dim light. Still in Sant'Agata is the fine church, in exposed stonework, of **Sant'Andrea Apostolo**, considered the oldest place of worship in the village.

Immersed in nature and the **Pietra Punta Gorge** near **Accadia**, is the small church consecrated to **Santa Maria Maggiore o dei Teutoni**. This was built with reused Roman material, most likely on the site of a temple devoted *"ad Matrem Magna"*. On the **Monte di Crispiniano** stands the **Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel**.

Monteleone di Puglia in the inner mountains is also worth a visit for the incredibly solemn example of 19th century religious architecture in

"La Madonna della roccia" (Accadia)

Legend has it that a shepherd boy picked some flowers for the village church. To protect them from the sun, he put them in a crack in the rock, and there the face of the Virgin Mary appeared. A chapel was built between the 13th and 14th centuries and then modified several times. The Madonna del Carmine is celebrated on 16th July with a procession from Accadia to the Shrine. Then, every 5 years, on 21st August (the next one is in 2017), a great festival is organised with shows and fairs.



Balustrade of Santa Maria Assunta, Roseto Valfortore

Monti Dauni: the **Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista**, whose façade stands out for the elegant cladding in grey diamond-pointed rusticated stone. Outside the village is the small but pretty **Chiesetta di San Rocco**, built in the 19th century by the survivors of the plague on the spot where those less fortunate were buried.

Heading towards the plateau, we arrive in **Ascoli Satriano** which offers a number of buildings of religious interest. Among these is the notable church consecrated to **Our Lady of the Nativity**, which was the third **cathedral** in Ascoli Satriano built in the 15th century. Set in the old part of the village, it features a wonderful façade that blends Romanesque and Gothic elements. The interior holds the 18th century dome frescoes by Vito Calò, various Baroque paintings, including the *Ecce Homo* attributed to Luca Giordano. The **Church and Monastery consecrated to San Potito** where a statue of the patron saint (1600) is preserved, is in the Baroque style.

We leave the southern Monti Dauni and follow the roads of devotion to **Biccari**. In the centre of the village is the majestic **Chiesa Madre di Maria SS. Assunta**: the best example of neoclassical architecture in the Monti Dauni. The elegance of the façade, where white stone pilasters break the colour of the bricks, is matched by a beautiful bell tower. The **Convento dei Frati Minori** also has a much admired bell tower and is worth visiting.

Along roads surrounded by lush forests, we come to **Roseto Valfortore**, where we wonder at the magnificent **Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta**, built in the early 1500s by the feudal lord Bartholomew III of Capua. It is the clearest example of the mastery achieved by the Roseto stonemasons: the magnificent entrance balustrade is stunning

“The majestic Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta di Roseto Valfortore is the clearest example of the craftsmanship achieved by the Roseto stonemasons”



Cathedral, Volturara Appula

with its carved stone panels. On the via Sottosanti side, two beautiful sepulchral slabs depict two noble men in the sleep of death.

The **Chiesa Priorale di Alberona** is consecrated to the **Nativity of the Virgin**, who was particularly dear to the **Knights Templar**. It dates to the early 18th century and was built on the site where an ancient church, founded by the Templars, stood. The bell tower incorporates the remains of one of the two towers of the Priory Palace. The marks of the Templars and the Knights of Malta are clearly visible in the stone slabs engraved with friezes.

The skyline of **Motta Montecorvino** is dominated by the imposing **Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista**, which was built in the 15th century. The façade is exposed stonework and the left side has the soaring bell tower, with a pointed arch at its base, a transformation of a tower on the ancient boundary walls. During World War II, German troops, having occupied the town, returned the tower to its original purpose as a watchtower.

Another **Cathedral**, consecrated to **Santa Maria Assunta** and erected in the 13th century, is in **Volturara Appula**. A masterpiece of the Apulian Romanesque form, solemn and austere, it features a bichrome exterior decoration, of different coloured stone. The bell tower is a massive square with four one-light openings and is topped by a small cusp. The interior has majestic columns with plant motif capitals.

Legend has it that **San Marco La Catola** was the destination, together with the Christians liberated by Frederick II in Jerusalem, of the wooden bas-relief of **Saint Mary of Jehoshaphat**, for which the church of the same name was built in the 14th century. The convent was built by the

The Madonna and the brigand

*A Madonna holds a child, who seems to greet us, in her left arm. In her right, she offers a crown of wheat. The faces are brown, sculpted in cedar wood. This is the statue in the **Church of the Nativity of Mary**, the only remnant of the medieval village of **Serritella (Volturino)**, fiefdom of the Knights Templar from the 12th century, who built a fortified monastery with an inn for pilgrims. In July 1862, General Cialdini ordered Volturino razed to the ground, since, so he thought, it had supported the brigand, Pasquale Recchia, known as **Pasqualillo**. When the soldiers arrived in Serritella, they sought refuge in the cool shade of the church and it was here that the Madonna appeared and told them not to destroy the village.*

Minor Capuchin Friars, who arrived towards the end of the 16th century at the behest of the Marquis Pignatelli. A very young **Padre Pio** once stayed here. According to tradition, in 1893 the Madonna of Jehoshaphat appeared to some miners who had emigrated from Celenza Valfortore to the United States. She warned them that the mine was about to collapse and saved their lives.

Another marquis, Andrea Gambacorta had the **Chiesa di San Nicola** built together with the imposing monastery of the same name in the 17th century in **Celenza Valfortore**. It was consecrated to one of his ancestors, the blessed Chiara Gambacorta. The monastery complex, which housed the Poor Clares and now houses the village school, was built over the ancient ruins of the original 11th century church. The monastery's mills are particularly interesting and a Visitors' Centre explains the Flora and Fauna of nearby Lake Occhito. The catacombs are not open to visitors.

On the last Sunday in May, **Carlantino** remembers a very ancient rite: offering milk curd made by the shepherd of the transhumance to **Our Lady of the Holy Annunciation**. The Virgin watches over the path of men and their herds, which is why the shepherds, as a sign of gratitude and devotion, pay homage to the Madonna by leaving an offering of milk, cheese and ricotta. This is the celebration of the "**Madonna della Ricotta**".

The **Chiesa di Maria SS. della Murgia** was built in the 12th century in **Castelnuovo della Daunia** and legend has it that the church was built where a Marian icon, giving off a celestial smell, was found around the year 1000. The exterior is striking for its stateliness and the remains of a portal can still be appreciated including the beautiful Corinthian capitals and the arch.

Another important stop on our journey is the **Chiesa Madre di Maria SS. Assunta** at **Pietramontecorvino**. It was probably built in the late 12th century, as suggested by the side portal with three arches, the only entrance to the church until the 18th century when the staircase, the loggia and the door that opens on the eastern façade were built. From the imposing bell tower, ending with a beautiful dome in yellow and green tiles, you can enjoy a privileged view of the valley and the terracotta roofs of Terravecchia.

Leaving the Romanesque styles of the oldest churches, we end this religious itinerary at the beautiful **Duomo di Lucera**. Built in 1300, probably over a demolished mosque, by **Charles II d'Anjou** it celebrates the defeat of the Saracens and is in Gothic style with French influences. The building stands in pleasant piazza and features elegant asymmetry in the façade, a rectangular bell tower, topped by an elegant lantern on the right side, and, on the left, a smaller, more gracious octagonal tower. The spirit of Frederick II still lingers however, with the symbol of his defeat. According to tradition, the altar table comes from the furnishings of the Frederician palace at Castelfiorentino.

A path of devotion (Pietramontecorvino)

*Legend has it that **Saint Albert the Norman** appeared in a dream to two women. He told them that to relieve the unremitting drought and save their crops, the Petraioli had to make a penitential pilgrimage to **Montecorvino**. And so it was done. On the return journey, the much longed for rain finally fell. The saint had ended the drought and won eternal devotion. Since then, every 16th May, a colourful caravan, with huge poles and fluttering, colourful shawls retraces the steps of faith, tradition and cultural identity.*





A noir novel (Monastero di San Nicola, Celenza Valforete)

It all began with Sister Angela. She was battered by the devil at night but no one believed her and she ended up crazed and in prison. Then it happened to Sister Maria Chiara. Rumours that it was all the work of the evil one began. The Marquises tried everything: exorcisms, blessings, pilgrimages, even new church bells. But nothing broke the evil spell. On the night of Saint Nicolas, Sister Angela died. All the nuns heard cries, saw black cats and devilish goats, and lightning struck the kitchen hearth and Sister Cristina...



Courtyard of the Bishop's Palace, Lucera

The places of the people

Going beyond the arches that were the ancient entrances to the villages, venture deeper along streets and alleyways to find the façades of wonderful noble palaces, but also to discover the signs of the village's rural peasant life. Walking through the stone houses with uniform terracotta roofs, you will have to watch out for the **historical palaces**, of varying importance, all of them appreciable, at least from the outside.

On every façade or balcony, look for the small caryatids or telamons, masks and portals with carving of animals, even imaginary ones, plants and floral motifs, and coats of arms.

Lucera is worth visiting just to wander its streets, hunting for the many palaces built by the noble families between the 17th and 20th centuries.

Among the many beautiful palaces, **Palazzo Mozzagrugno** stands out. It is the Town Hall, the Bonghi Municipal Library and the Teatro Garibaldi. Then there is **Palazzo Bonghi**, whose portal features an arch with two side friezes, on the right a rampant lion and on the left a heart surmounted by the crest. The Baroque **Bishop's Palace**, with a beautiful courtyard, houses the Diocesan Museum, Library and Archive. Then we have the 18th century **Palazzo De Troia**, home to the local tourist information office. Take a walk in this architectural treasure trove, which is Lucera, to find many more jewels, such as (and to name just one more) the **Palazzo de' Nicastrì**, containing the "**G. Fiorelli**" local museum.

Moving inland from Lucera, we get to **Troia**, where we find the ancient residence of the **d'Avalos Family** (today the Town Hall and local museum), with its sumptuous entrance portal. Worth a visit, if only for the façade, is **Palazzo Tricarico**; for the courtyards, **Palazzo Antinozzi**, **Siliceo** and **Varo**.

“Going beyond arches that were the ancient entrances to these villages, you venture deeper along streets and alleyways that take you to contemplating the façades of wonderful noble palaces”



Straw oven, Orsara di Puglia

Definitely not to overlook is the Vanvitelli **Bishop's Palace** next to the Cathedral.

In **Faeto** is the delightful **Casa del Capitano** – of particular note is the remarkable two-light window. Today it houses a museum (Mu.Civi.Te).

In **Orsara di Puglia**, admire the courtyard of the former **Palazzo Baronale** of the Guevara Dukes. Formerly an abbey, the original arched entrance with rusticated stonework is beautiful. Opposite is the **Fontana Nuova** made during the Renaissance and on the other side of the street is the **Palazzo Varo** which houses the Diocesan Museum. In addition to the many splendid portals and a Renaissance **Straw Oven**, the recently restored **Palazzo De Gregorio** is marvellous.

Not far from Orsara, north of the Cervaro river, is the 18th century **Torre Guevara** palace, which was used as a lavish hunting lodge by the Dukes and has hosted various kings and queens. Its rooms offered refreshment to the Bourbon Charles III and Queen Amalia of Valbussa. Today it is under restoration.

Going upstream to **Ponte di Bovino**, is a **Water Mill**, still working, a sumptuous **Bourbon Fountain** and a majestic building that was a **Post Station**.

In **Bovino**, the “village of 800 portals”, the **Bishop's Palace**, amongst others, is worth more than just a quick glance. It houses the Diocesan Library and Archive, a priceless heritage containing about ten thousand books.

The streets and alleyways of **Panni** also brim with richly carved **portals** including the **Palazzo Manuppeli** which is particularly striking.

“The Straw Ovens”

*It's not hard to imagine the women making their way to these ancient ovens. Only bread kneaded at home was baked here and although the habit of making dough at home has since been lost, the two straw ovens at **Orsara di Puglia** and **Roseto Valfortore**, both from the early 16th century, reminds us of the past. The technique is Saracen and baking is rapid, thanks to the high temperatures reached in the oven. The fabulous bread has an incredibly crunchy crust.*



In **Accadia**, admire the ancient **Palazzo Vassalli**, which houses the local museum, and a pretty **Clock Tower**.

Further south, **Sant'Agata di Puglia** boasts numerous elegant buildings, such as the **Palazzo Barbato**, built on primitive hypogea, and the old olive mill; **Palazzo Capria** with its façade in rusticated lined stone; the Renaissance **Palazzo De Marinis-Calcagno** with its imposing portal with round arch; **Palazzo Torraca-Rosati**, with its extraordinary portal carved with roses, as well as **Palazzo Vinciguerra** and **Palazzo Volpe**.

Walk the streets of **Ascoli Satriano** and discover the fine façades of the historical palaces, such as **Palazzo del Cavaliere** with its beautiful 16th century portal; **Palazzo della Pretura** which incorporates the **Clock Tower** and the **Porta Nuova Arch**, and **Palazzo Visciola**, today home to the Town Hall.

In **Candela**, the noble palace of the **Doria** family, from the Renaissance period, has an elegant loggia and preserves the original coffered wooden ceilings. The fine **Palazzo Ripandelli** has been recently restored and houses a multimedia museum. **Palazzo Padula** displays Art Nouveau and houses the Town Hall.

In **Rocchetta Sant'Antonio** only a fine portal remains of **Casa Matia**, beyond which is a breathtaking view. The **Seggio** is, instead, an elegant stone environment that opens through two round arches, supported by beautiful carved columns. Feudal lords and civil authorities held their meetings here.

Let's leave the southern Monti Dauni and take our route through historical palaces to **Biccari**, where we stumble onto beautiful, aristocratic palaces by simply wandering through the streets. **Palazzo Gallo** has a gorgeous portal; the imposing **Palazzo Gasparri** features a large internal courtyard; while **Palazzo Goffredo** boasts interesting carved stone details on the façade. **Palazzo La Piccola**, having suffered fewer modifications, retains its original beauty.

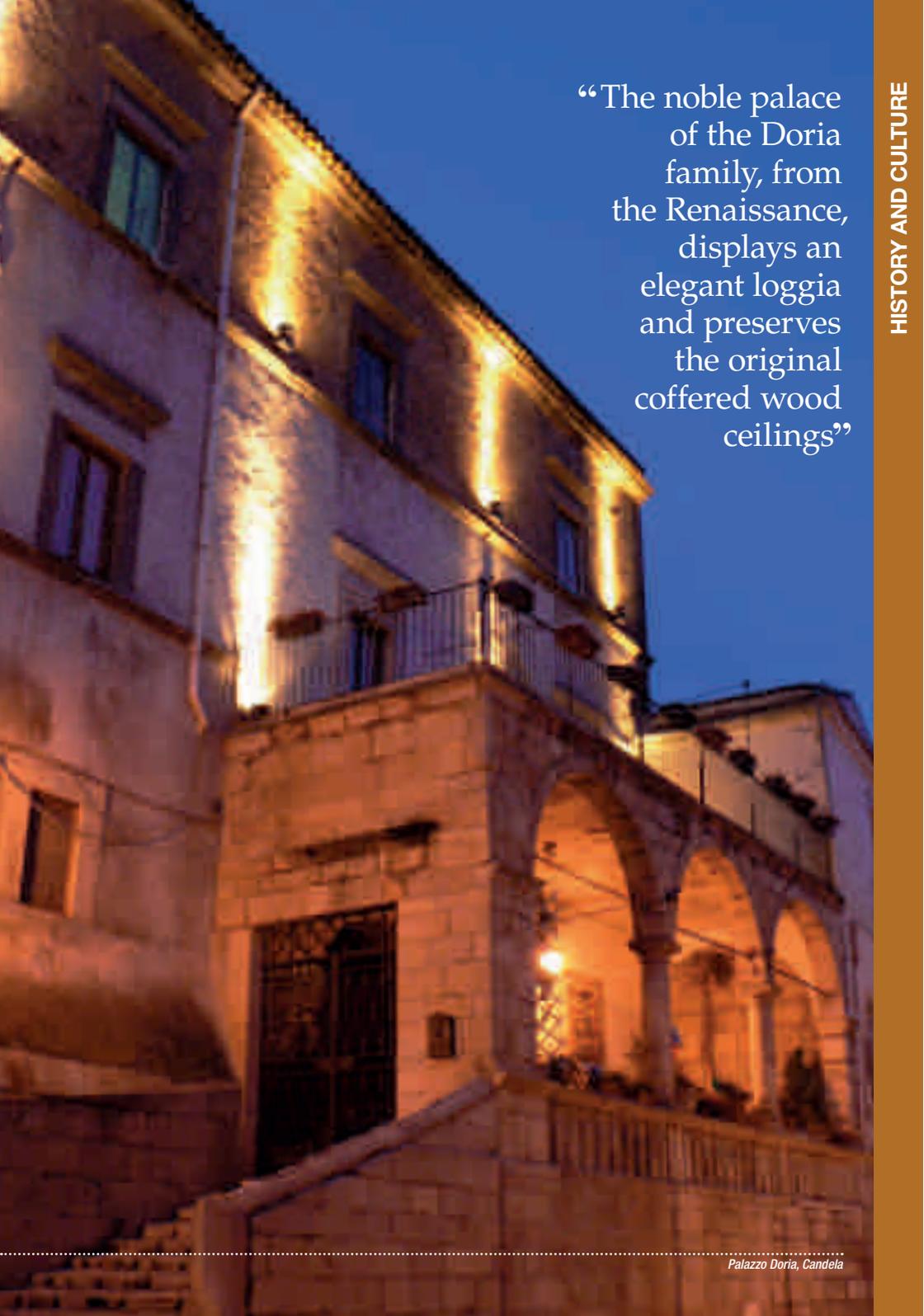
In **Alberona**, a tower remains of the medieval **Priory Palace** which was home to the **Templars**. The palace probably included a hospital, a prison, an armoury and a stable. In the early 14th century, the Order of the Templars was abolished and the building was handed to the **Knights of Malta**, who ran it until the abolition of the feudal system in 1806. The village is also famous for its many fountains, among which the **Fontana Muta** stands out.

Nearby **Roseto Valfortore** has the imposing keep of the **Palazzo Marchesale**, built on the orders of Bartholomew III of Capua, as well as a number of interesting "lesser" architecture, such as the diminutive house of "**Concetta non me la fido**", the ancient **Straw Oven** and the **Water mills**.

"The Enchanted Hamlet"

*Perched on the **Accadia** Mountain, a primordial, enchanting place: is the **Rione Fossi**. An incredible complex of caves, alleyways and buildings that clings to the mountain, overlooking the valley. Arriving here means taking a step into a fairytale dimension: if someone told you that ancient magic keeps the village under its spell, you'd believe it. Everything stopped here in the last century: a violent earthquake forced everyone to leave it.*





“The noble palace
of the Doria
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ceilings”



Fontana Nuova, Orsara di Puglia

Among the ancient architecture that tells the history of **Volturino**, admire the **Palazzo Baronale** of the Montalto, and its remarkable portal.

Still quite near, **Volturara Appula** should be visited for the imposing fortified construction of the **Palazzo Ducale**.

Finally, in **Castelnuovo della Daunia**, the **Palazzo** which houses the **Town Hall** boasts an almost one-thousand-year-old history, although little remains of the original construction, as it was transformed from fortress to noble palace.

“The Monumental Fountains”

The Monti Dauni are porous with springs, ponds and lakes, but especially with beautiful monumental fountains. Once an essential part of life, when no one had water piped into their homes, they witnessed a peasant society that is no more. Women filling tubs of water and carrying them home on their heads. A meeting place and social hub, many fountains had wash tubs and, by day, were quite lively with the women doing their washing, nattering, joking and gossiping.

“The water mills”

*A sign of a rural economy, the water mills were, and are, magnificent examples of industrial archaeology. The millstones were operated through a shaft by wheels (ritrecine) moved by the water. Although the Monti Dauni used to have many water mills, two superb examples, both open to visitors, are in **Bovino** by the Cervaro and in **Roseto Valfortore**, by the Vadangillo river.*

MONTI DAUNI

Discover Puglia



 Areas of natural interest

EXPERIENCING NATURE





The beauty of an unspoilt land

Forget the huge expanses and flatlands covered by endless olive groves. Cast off the image of red soil and a sun-scorched land: this is an unusual and different Apulia, a surprise for travellers.

Here, you will be amazed by lush vegetation. Here, the Apennines slide into Apulia, and the mountains gently turn into hills and valleys crossed by rivers and streams. Here, there are forests, highland pastures, marshes, mountain lakes, as well as vegetable gardens, vineyards, olive groves, orchards and natural vantage points: the scenery is varied and the views are utterly breathtaking. **The Monti Dauni is the best, most romantic inland area in Apulia!**

The first, most striking thing for visitors is the **pristine environment**, where the presence of man and his activity has barely registered, and where it is apparent, it is beautiful. Beyond the anthropic transformation of the landscape, you can travel for kilometres, up and down hills, and take in wide vistas filled with light, without ever encountering a factory or smokestack. Here, the balance between man and nature has been preserved and has proudly, and rightly, resulted in so many **Orange Flags** and titles of **Most Beautiful Villages of Italy** awarded to many municipalities. All this makes the Monti Dauni an area with one of the most quality tourism certifications in the entire Italian peninsula.

The first thing that strikes you is the natural environment which completely envelops you and creates a deep feeling of well-being. More than a third of Apulia's greenery is on these hills covered with downy oak and beech woods thousands of years old. Not to mention the valleys, at the bottom of which flow the rivers and streams that make this

“More than a third of Apulia’s greenery is on these hills, covered with downy oak woods and remnants of beech woods thousands of years old”



Belvedere, Sant'Agata di Puglia

land fertile, and the many paths and sheep trails, punctuated by pile and *pisceri*.

Here, your eyes constantly refocus to near and far. Near, when, in the spring, you spot an orchid or a primrose on the edge of the road or when a fox suddenly appears; Far when see a bird – maybe a soaring kite – in an endless, cloudless sky.

The Monti Dauni is a paradise for “vista hunters”, thanks to the beautiful views from the villages, which offer plenty more vantage points, and the panorama vistas from the tops of the mountains.

Nature can be experienced in so many ways here: softly and slowly with peaceful walks along paths in the forests, alone or with an experienced guide, **bird watching**, **observing the flora**, taking part in **environmental educational workshops**; or active and sporting with challenging **hiking trails**, paths by **bike** or **horseback**, **adventure parks** with hanging walkways through the trees, designed both for children and grown-ups; and then, for the daredevils, there is **paragliding** and **hang-gliding** over the Cervaro Valley!

The waters of the Monti

The rivers Ofanto, Fortore, Cervaro and Celone; a thousand springs, pile, *pisceri* and streams that flow in a dense web through the valleys, criss-crossing the Monti Dauni; as well as two lakes, Lake Pescara and the Occhito Lake. The Monti Dauni are rich in water.

An ideal water route starts from the north: from the hills of **Carlantino**, **Celenza Valfortore** and **San Marco La Catola**, look over **the Occhito Lake**, covering 14 square kilometres. The artificial basin

What a sight...

Celenza Valfortore offers spectacular views of Lake Occhito. From the top of the Norman Tower at Pietramontecorvino you can see most of the plateau, all the way to the Gargano; Alberona is a terrace on the Apulia flatland; Celle San Vito has romantic views of the Celone Valley and the hills framing it; Panni overlooks enchanting Cervaro Valley; from the Castle of Deliceto, the view is superb of the Valle in Vincoli; from the Castle at Sant'Agata di Puglia you can see Apulia, Campania and Lucania; in Rocchetta Sant'Antonio, you have a choice: for the less adventurous, go through the arch to reach a vantage point that has a breathtaking view. For the rest, spectacular views are afforded by the peaks and hills that can be reached on foot, by bike or on horseback!



Pescara Lake, Biccari

was created after damming the **Fortore**. A paradise for **anglers** as it teems with **carp, trout, tench, bleaks, crucian carp** and **chubs**. In addition to fishing, the Occhito dam offers truly beautiful landscapes, with its lush vegetation and “tunnel forests” of **poplars and willows**, where the “Araba Fenice” association organises guided tours and environmental educational workshops. Follow a charming itinerary along the reservoir, along the entire Apulian side, from the **dam (Carlantino)** to the **13 Arches Bridge (San Marco La Catola)** either on foot, by bike or on horseback.

Further south a true, natural paradise envelops **Biccari**: this is **Lake Pescara**, a small, natural basin, narrow and long, at 900 metres above sea level, in the middle of a wilderness area that offers extraordinarily beautiful sights. The lake is fed by springs underneath and is quite rich in fish, especially **carp** and **bleaks**. It has thick vegetation, the most outstanding specimen being **water-crowfoot** with its white flowers which, in the fair season, cover the surface of the water. The area attracts amphibians, birds and mammals. Take the enchanting path through the *woods* and **Toppo Pescara** to the lake of the same name and **Monte Sidone**.

The Monti Dauni area represents the most significant water basin in the entire region with numerous rivers and streams.

The **Fortore** marks the border between Apulia and Molise and has several tributaries. The area used to be rich in **water mills**, like the ones you should visit in **Roseto Valfortore** and where you can also enjoy **environmental educational activities** held on the banks of the **Vadangillo** canal, a tributary of the Fortore, and arranged by the **Environmental Experience Centre “Il Lupo” – O.S.E.AP.** The itinerary,

“The path through the wood and Toppo Pescara to the Lake of the same name and Monte Sidone is absolutely enchanting”



Monti Dauni seen from the air

to be done on foot, starts at the **Roseto mills** and follows the canal through the **Vetruscelli Forest**, reaching the **Antinozzi Drinking Trough**, considered to be the source of the Fortore.

The **Cervaro** crosses a valley that, since antiquity, has represented the main connection between Naples and Apulia and is an important biological corridor. There is another ancient **water mill** near **Bovino**. Take a trip there and listen to the stories of the brigands who chose this valley as their favourite place for raids. The bandits had a favourite hiding place in the **Grotte dei Porcili**, deep, rocky caves that open out near the **Biletra river**.

The river **Ofanto** is the largest river in southern Italy and marks the southern border of the Monti Dauni with Basilicata, near **Rocchetta Sant'Antonio**, where it features extraordinary biological variety, including **otters**.

The waters of the **Frugno** give rise to another type of landscape, which can only be reached on foot and is visually striking and features waterfalls and rocks that form ponds surrounded by willows and poplars. These are the **Pietra di Punta Gorges** near **Accadia**. The area is important because of the many species of amphibians and birds that inhabit it. Excursions in the area are arranged by the **Accadia Environmental Education Centre**, in cooperation with the "Verdemediterraneo" association.

Exploring the waters must include some of the many springs you chance upon when walking over these mountains. They are often marked by water basins, fountains, *pisceri* and watering troughs. Watch out for them on your walks.

Pliny the Elder never saw it like this...

The view over the Cervaro river is splendid from Bovino and arguably even better from Monte Preisi (Orsara di Puglia), but what do you think it's like from the air? In summer, hang-gliding and paragliding enthusiasts spread their wings and take to the skies above Panni. The Latin writer would never have imagined that the sky above his Cerbalus (the river Cervaro), which he described as navigable, would see so many a fearless Icarus.



Fairytale forests

Forests are one of the Monti Dauni's *must-see* features due to their size and variety. Nature is so easily accessible. While oak is predominant, especially **downy oak**, you can also find remnants of **beech forest**, now rare in Europe, and **holm oaks, turkey oaks, ash, maples, elms, linden, rowan, hazels**.

In the north, in the **Casalnuovo Monterotaro** area, near the Fortore, lies the **Bosco di Dragonara** with its big **white poplars** and **willows**. Not far from here, the **Oasi Lipu** (Italian Society for the Protection of Birds) of **Colle Bellino** represents an area of great importance from the naturalistic point of view and for bird watching.

Go south and to the biggest forested area in the Monti Dauni around **Monte Sambuco**. In May, decorated carts and crowds come here from **Motta Montecorvino** for a celebration in the forest to honour Saint John.

In **Pietramontecorvino** the **Bosco Celle** is very special, featuring the **Pila Sant'Onofrio** and **Pila del ladro**, where the micro-climate created by the forest and by the springs attracts lots of animals. You can reach them by following an itinerary which starts from the **Forest Keeper's House**, used for **environmental educational activities** near the Pietramontecorvino Town Hall.

Another fine itinerary for trekking enthusiasts starts from **Piano del Sorbo (Celenza Valfortore)** and goes to **Fontana Cazzarelli**, passing through **Casone lamele**, near the **Wildlife acclimatisation and restocking centre** set up by the Province of Foggia and where you can admire several animal species, typical of the area.

“The micro-climate created by the forest and springs has attracted a great many animal species”



Bosco Celle, Pietramontecarvino

The **San Cristoforo Forest** has facilities for trekking tourists, with several paths that can be done on foot, by mountain bike or on horseback. They can all be reached from **San Marco La Catola**. It's probably best to use a bicycle along the **Tratturo Lucera-Castel di Sangro**, which offers beautiful sights, to reach the **Bridge of Thirteen Arches**, on the border between Apulia and Molise. Leaving **Volturara Appula**, nature lovers can go as far as the **S. Antonio Forest** and the area called **Difesa dei Corvi**, to find sulphur water springs. From **Volturino**, walk to **Colle Montorsi** and then to the **Marano Forest**, which is particularly interesting and features stretches of ancient vegetation. In **Alberona**, we recommend a trip along the paths of the **Tuoro Forest** and for the young ones, a visit to the **wildlife area dedicated to boars** will be fascinating. Not far from the village is the fine **Canale dei Tigli**, which features rocky banks worked smooth by water, small overhangs and charming little waterfalls. Another very nice itinerary, but also one of the most challenging and to be done on horseback, is from **Alberona** to the **Serritella Shrine (Volturino)**, fording the **Salsola river** and going through the **Mezzana Forest** and the **Marano Forest**.

One of the best equipped and most fascinating destinations for hiking through the woods is the trio of **Lake Pescara-Monte Cornacchia-Bosco della Cerasa**, near **Biccari**. The whole area is crisscrossed by paths that can be done either on foot or on horseback. The undergrowth of the beautiful **Cerasa Forest** is full of **mushrooms** and **truffles**, especially "scorzone", the black summer truffle. The area also includes **Monte Cornacchia**, which, at 1,152m high, is the highest peak in Apulia. A pleasant mountain hut awaits you on the **roof of Apulia**, which can also be reached by the **Sentiero Frassati** path. It is dedicated to Pier Giorgio Frassati (the young man from Turin who loved nature and the mountains, beatified in 1990), it can easily be done on foot,

“Monte Cornacchia, at 1152 metres tall, is the highest peak in Apulia”



Apennine wolf

by mountain bike or on horseback and it takes in breathtaking views of the areas around **Biccari**, **Roseto Valfortore**, **Faeto**, **Celle San Vito** and **Castelluccio Valmaggiore**. From here you can go up, on foot, by mountain bike or on horseback, the **Celone** river, going through the **Celle San Vito** area, through the **Difesa Forest**, until you reach **Faeto**, to a fine **botanical garden**. Along the ridges, take time to enjoy the sweeping views to the distant Gulf of Manfredonia. The section of the **Via Francigena** that retraces **Via Trajana** can be found here: the detour to **Orsara di Puglia** is noteworthy for the sights it offers. The custom here, even for older people, is a long walk out of the village and into the nearest woods: **Calavrese**, **Acquara**, **Demanio**. Each one is utterly enchanting.

Setting off from the village and skirting **Monte San Marco**, you reach **Monte Preisi** which offers beautiful views over the **Valle del Cervaro**. Come in the spring to see the wild orchids in full bloom. If you cross **Cervellino** by bike, go through forests and past fountains, you will reach the ancient Royal Naples-Foggia Road and the **Bovino Bridge** with its *Moleno*.

Going up to **Bovino**, you will pass the **Valleverde Forest**, which is well-equipped with picnic facilities. A charming path, to be done either on foot or by mountain bike, starts from the village and takes you to the viewing point of **Monte Castro**, an exceptional spot for bird watching. Continue to **Pietrapanni**, through pastures and meadows. Not very far from Bovino is the **Salecchia Forest**.

From **Deliceto**, take a naturalistic and spiritual walk first to the **Oimitello Forest** then to the **Consolation shrine** in **Valle in Vincolis**. The beautiful **Paduli Forest** between **Accadia** and **Deliceto** will

Roseto and the wolf

*The **Observatory of Apennines Ecology (OS.E.AP.)** was the first environmental experience centre in Apulia, starting from monitoring **wolves** in the Monti Dauni. It is an **eco-museum** with dioramas and a **research centre**, which also does **environmental educational activities** for school groups and adults along the Frassati path to the water mills and in the **Isclare Forest**, which has the widest **water meadow** in the Monti Dauni.*



Adventure Park, Biccari

amaze you with its ancient oaks, springs and wild orchids dotting a truly impressive area of wilderness, a favourite destination for hikers, mountain biking and horseback riding. The name Paduli (swamps) is probably taken from the number of small temporary marshes that are formed by rivulets that flow into the forest from **Monte Tre Titoli**. In **Agata delle Noci (Accadia)** take the **Acquatorta Mule Track** for a walk that skirts **Monte Tre Titoli**, passes through the **Macchione Forest (Deliceto)** and the **Paduli Forest** and then heads back to Agata delle Noci. Still in **Accadia**, don't miss the walk to the shrine of the Madonna del Carmine on **Monte Crispiniano**.

The **Cesine Forest** is in **Sant'Agata**, and is home to birds typical of riverine environments, attracted by the **Frugno** stream and the nearby **Serbaroli Forest**. The **Tratturo Pescasseroli-Candela** Sheep Trail is exceptionally beautiful, especially the section crossing **Anzano di Puglia**. From **Ascoli Satriano**, finally, there is a lovely walk to the **Selve di San Nicola** and **San Giacomo** forests.

An adventure in the forest

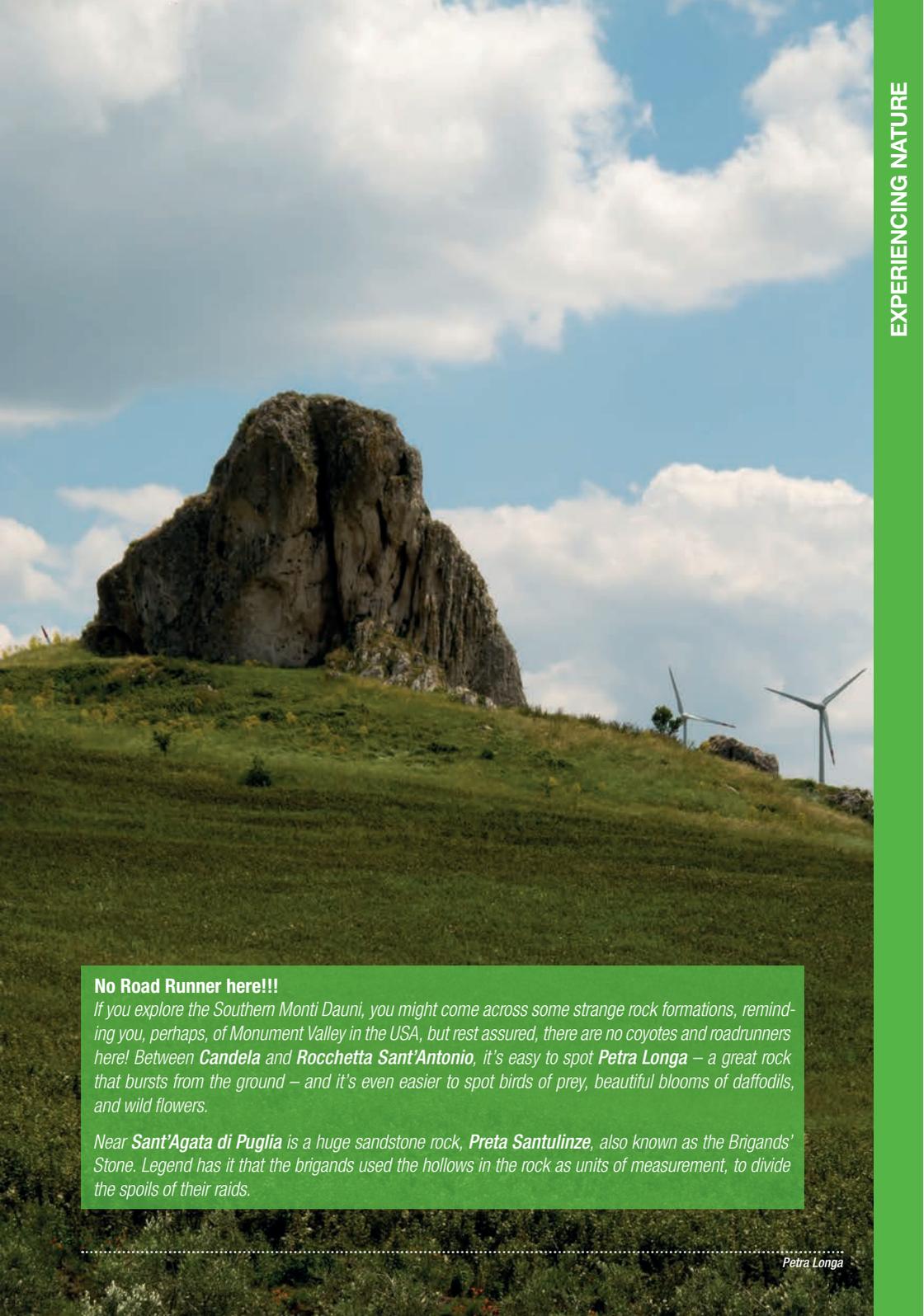
*Hangin*g from the treetops, navigating acrobatic pathways: experience the thrill of the great outdoors in complete safety. The Monti Dauni area has several **Adventure Parks** to choose from. In **Biccari** the "**Lago Pescara**" Park has paths for children, adults and people with disabilities, as well as a hiking trail to the "Monte Cornacchia" mountain hut. In **Pietramontecorvino**, at the Pila di Sant'Onofrio the **Parco Daunia Avventura** has five paths with varying levels of difficulty, Tibetan bridges and swinging trunks. In **Motta Montecorvino**, a fitness trail with as many as 17 stations awaits you on **Monte Sambuco**. The Adventure Park at **Faeto** is opening soon.

Rugger II and the Selvamala

The area around Monteleone di Puglia is perfect for the lazy nature lover: a track from the Town Hall takes you to the **Selvamala Forest**, just a kilometre away. Here, the famous Assize of Ariano took place, the Constituent Assembly of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies held by **Ruggero II of Altavilla**.

PREVIEW





No Road Runner here!!!

*If you explore the Southern Monti Dauni, you might come across some strange rock formations, reminding you, perhaps, of Monument Valley in the USA, but rest assured, there are no coyotes and roadrunners here! Between **Candela** and **Rocchetta Sant'Antonio**, it's easy to spot **Petra Longa** – a great rock that bursts from the ground – and it's even easier to spot birds of prey, beautiful blooms of daffodils, and wild flowers.*

*Near **Sant'Agata di Puglia** is a huge sandstone rock, **Preta Santulinze**, also known as the Brigands' Stone. Legend has it that the brigands used the hollows in the rock as units of measurement, to divide the spoils of their raids.*



Ophrys incubacee

The flora

Besides a very respectable arboreal component (suffice to mention the forests of oak, downy oak, the presence of beech), the **minor flora** deserves a special mention: from the small, but incredibly beautiful **primrose**, **snowdrop**, **anemone**, **squill**, **calendula**, **narcissus**, to the imposing **broom**, **hawthorn** and **dog rose**. Among the various bushes, **Jerusalem thorn**, **holly**, **Judas tree**, **dogwood**, **blackthorn**, **honeysuckle** and well worth a mention. There is also a remarkable presence of **butcher's-broom** and **mistletoe**, which can be found among the branches of various trees, especially in winter.

At the edges of the woods and in marshy areas, admire the **European spindle**, a poisonous shrub with characteristic purple fruit and which looks like the hats worn by Catholic priests, hence its common Italian name (the priest's cap). It is brightly coloured in autumn.

Mullein has bright yellow flowers, growing out of a large stem. The presence of **lily of the valley** which flowers in the summer is worthy of note, although the **thistle** takes centre stage, an important source of nutrition for insects, considering it is one of the few plants that does not wilt in the summer heat.

A separate mention should be reserved for the **wild orchids**, widespread in the meadows and pastures: from the majestic **orchide purpurea** to the splendid **orchide italica**, from the romantic **orchide sambucina** to the "deceitful", small **ophrys**.

The fauna

The Monti Dauni area features one of the highest rates of biodiversity in southern Italy. You cannot escape the continuous sightings of animals

The orchid's trick

Every **ophrys** possesses a *labellum*, a lip, reminiscent in size, shape and appearance of the female of a specific insect. Thanks to this likeness and the volatile substances produced by the flower – which are similar to the pheromones of the female insect in the mating season – the flowers successfully attract many males. This is how *ophrys* is pollinated: by insects in their vain attempts to mate with a "fake".



Peregrine falcon

or their traces, from tracks to fur from mammals and plumage from birds. Even the shiest of species can be “found” by looking for their tracks and the signs they leave of the presence.

The **Apennines wolf** is, without doubt, the king of these forests and its presence over the last few years has strengthened to the point that some specimens have been pushing south and colonising the Murge in Apulia.

But many other mammals can be spotted here: **wild boar, foxes, hares, badgers, martens, skunks, hedgehogs, garden dormice, dormice, hazel dormice, weasels**, the rare **wildcat** and the even rarer **otter**. Recent reports and the discovery of quills testify to the presence – albeit poor – of **porcupines**, and hair balls from **roe deer** have been found as well.

The region has a wide number of species of **bird life**. Among which the **birds of prey** both diurnal and nocturnal stand out: **kestrels, peregrine falcons** and **ospreys, buzzards, black and red kites, barn owls, tawny owls, horned owls, eared owls** and **little owls**. Other birds include: **purple and grey heron, egrets, dipper, kingfisher, night heron, great crested grebe, skylark, hoopoe, thrush, snipe, corn bunting, green woodpecker** and **great spotted woodpecker, tawny pipit, wryneck, whitethroat, wood pigeon, robin, crane, wild goose** and **duck**. There are a great many **corvids**, among which the **maggie** is predominant.

Reptilians are also well-represented by many species of **snakes** including the **four-lined snake** which can reach up to two metres in length, but is harmless; the biting **western whip snake**,

“The Monti Dauni feature one of the highest rates of biodiversity in southern Italy. You see traces of the animals that live here everywhere, and you can often catch sight of them”



completely black in the melanistic variety present in Apulia, and, near water, are the **water snake** and the **dice snake**. Less frequently spotted, but there, nevertheless in the sunniest areas is the **adder**. Among saurians, there are the **country lizard**, the **wall lizard**, the **three-toed skink**, the **slowworm** and the **green lizard**. There is also **tortoise**, although strongly decreasing, in the less high areas.

Extremely interesting are the **amphibians** among which stand out the **newts** (Italian and *camifex*), a testament to the clean waters, and the **anurans** such as the **Italian frog**, the **agile frog**, the **green toad**, the **common toad** the **Apennine yellow-bellied toad**.

Insects being numerous and highly interesting, deserve a special mention: from **coleoptera** to **hymenoptera**, to **lepidoptera**. There is a remarkable presence of **stag beetle**. A recent research by OS.E.A.P. identified over 700 species of **butterfly** on Monti Dauni between diurnal and nocturnal, including microlepidoptera. The spectacular, incredibly number of **fireflies**, cannot be left unsaid.

“There are all manner of outdoor sports: from orienteering to archery, from mountain biking to horse-riding, from trekking to Adventure Parks”



Archery in the Adventure Park of Biccari

Outdoor activities

The area of the Monti Dauni can be visited and travelled in various ways. Many **paths** will take you to areas of high naturalistic or historic value and you can travel **on foot** or on **horseback** or, for the more experienced, on **mountain bikes**.

The paths lead you into inhabited areas, forests, marshes, bodies of water, archaeological areas and let you experience the beauty and wealth of this land.

Trips can be done alone, but to best appreciate what the area has to offer we recommend using an experienced guide. Younger visitors will be fascinated by the **environmental educational workshops** held in the forests or by streams.

Apart from, and in addition to all this, the Monti Dauni offer the chance to experience almost every kind of outdoor sport imaginable: from **orienteering** (Alberona, Roseto Valfortore) to **archery** (Biccari, Orsara di Puglia). In short: something for everybody!

“For the youngest ones, there are environmental education workshops in the forests or by the streams”

MONTI DAUNI

Discover Puglia





EATING WELL





Pulses of Monti Dauni

Food made and tasted with love

The dinner table is the social centre par excellence of these villages: the excellent products and dishes presented there must then be honoured by the display of a hearty appetite. Food tasting here encompasses all of the senses: not just the obvious senses of taste, sight and smell, but also touch to uncover the essence of ingredients provided by nature's bounty and hearing because every product, every dish has a story behind it. A story to be listened to and shared.

There are two verbs associated with Monti Dauni cuisine: **discover and be amazed**. And just one password: **simplicity**. The gastronomic harmony of simple recipes inspired by scented plants of the fields is truly incredible!

Today's cuisine is both a continuation of the peasant culinary tradition and a creative reinterpretation thereof. The intent is, as ever, to highlight the ingredients, nature's flavours. Because nature is generous here and offers up truly special products.

Our taste buds are tickled by a cuisine which makes use of high-quality locally-produced ingredients: **asparagus** production is one of the highest in Europe; **black boar**, a native breed saved from extinction, is raised here and produces delicious prosciutto and salami; rare high-quality wheat strains, such as **Senatore Cappelli** and **Armando** are cultivated; and then there are the native wine grapes, such as **Tuccanese** and **Nero di Troia**. Other outstanding products include **truffles** (scorzone) from the Biccari and Roseto Valfortore forests; **caciocavallo from the Monti Dauni**; **ricotta**, **fiordilatte** and **ca-cioricotta**; **prosciutto** and **lard from Faeto**; the pork products **capocollo**, **sopressata**, **sausage** and **noglia**; **organic D.O.P. Dauno**

“It is incredible to see what gastronomic harmonies arise from recipes inspired by the scent of the fields, without any complicated processing”



Collecting wild herbs

extra virgin olive oil; beans and grass peas from the Monti Dauni; and the rare limoncella apple.

This is a land of farmsteads with short supply chains and zero-mile cuisine, rich in vegetables and wild herbs, making every tasting a unique experience.

Antipasti – Let's begin our culinary journey with some nibbles and antipasti: **acqua sale** (soaked stale bread) and **caudielle** (toasted bread) dressed with tomatoes, oil and oregano; **mozzarella knots**, often made before your very eyes; **vegetable tartlets; bread balls; fried pizza** to accompany cold meats and cheeses. All bite-sized and delicious.

And there's more: **black olives** with garlic, bay leaves, chilli pepper and lemon zest; **green olives** in brine with wild fennel; **lampascioni** (a sort of large bitter onion) served fresh with eggs, conserved in oil or dried.

One of the most surprising culinary experiences of the Monti Dauni is those dishes whose appearance alone takes you into the heart of the countryside and whose taste is a discovery (or rediscovery) of forgotten flavours. The use of **wild herbs** is the element that most characterises local culinary tradition: here, pasta is inevitably served with "leaves".

Pasta – You will be delighted with **c'catiell, acc e patan** (cicatelli with celery and potatoes), **vurraine e fasule** (borage and beans), **recchietell e marasciuol** (orecchiette with white rocket), **tall/tadd e' checozz** (courgette tendrils) and **pizzelle and leaves**.

“One of the most surprising culinary experiences awaiting you on the Monti Dauni consists of finding dishes which, just by looking at them, will take you to a bucolic dimension”



Orecchiette

Wild herbs are the true stars of the Monti Dauni table: rocket, cardoon, white rocket, wild mustard, dandelion, chicory, broccoli rabe, watercress, golden thistle, chard, wild fennel, wild asparagus, borage and nettles. Add to these the **aromatic herbs** which, especially in the warm weather, fill the mountain air with their scent: oregano, thyme, rosemary, dill, basil and mint.

These herbs have been used for food and medicinal purposes since ancient times and are key players today in a healthy diet based on organic, unprocessed food.

As already mentioned, first courses traditionally consist of pasta with wild vegetables, though pulses are also used, most notably **laianell e fasul** (laganelle pasta with beans). At times fresh pasta will be dark in colour, due to the use of burnt wheat.

But the king among Monti Dauni first courses is a winter dish without pasta: **pancotto** (cooked bread) is a delicacy that arose from the need to use up stale bread in a peasant society where waste was inconceivable. The dish is seasoned with wild vegetables, and often mixed, in the heavier versions, with boiled potatoes and beans.

Finally, **Lucera's** typical dish is **mambrikule**, a semolina pasta with eggs, parsley, cheese, shredded by hand and topped with sauce or beef broth. It is similar in appearance to couscous.

Meat – Meat-based second courses are all about the pork, because possession of a pig by a peasant family was a sign of abundance and wealth. Traditionally butchered in winter, it ensured that the pantry would be full for many months to come with prosciutto, sausages,

The pasta of the Monti Dauni

*The queen of Apulian pasta is **orecchietta**: the small hollow disc, done by pressing the thumb into the dough, requires no introduction. **Cicatelli** instead are made by pressing four fingers on small cylinders. **Ca-vatelli**, smaller and just needing your index finger, are similar to gnocchetti, with an elongated shape. **Laganelle** are like tagliolini. **Pizzelle** are rectangular and resemble maltagliati. Finally, the **troccoli** are square-section spaghetti.*



Pork Soffritto

capocollo, noglia, *cutechine* (pork rind and fat sausage flavoured with garlic) and lard. One of the oldest methods used for preserving sausages is to store them in “*sugna*”, that is in the pig's own lard.

The dish that is most tied to these traditions is **soffritto** or *fritticella*, which entails using various parts of the pig, fried with vinegary peppers, potatoes and black olives. The tradition is so deeply rooted that many Monti Dauni villages participate in the “**Soffritto Challenge**” that takes place in Bovino.

And it is true that nothing is thrown away! Just ask the people in **Rose-to Valfortore**, where they make **u sammùcchje**: a pig's stomach is cured in water with citrus peel, filled with the pig's own blood, raisins, dried figs, fried cracklings, flour, sugar and chocolate. After boiling and cooling it is served in slices.

Other meat-based second courses worth mentioning are: **pork rind roll** with beans; mixed meat **ragu** (cooked very slowly for hours); and **braciola** in tomato sauce (a veal roll stuffed with grated cheese, parsley and garlic). An honourable mention goes to her majesty the **frittata** in all her variants, most of them with vegetables: special ones contain lampascioni, wild asparagus and... nettles!

Grilled meats made from lamb, goat, veal and pork are fantastic. Another grilled dish is **torcinelli**, a lamb casing stuffed with sweetbreads, parsley and sheep cheese.

Then come the special second courses, prepared for feast days, such as **roast lamb** with potatoes. The **lamb stew** made for Easter entails an enormous quantity of eggs and wild vegetables, chosen from among

The wheat of the poor

One peasant tradition of the Monti Dauni was to collect the grains of wheat left on the ground after the harvest and the burning of the stubble. These burnt grains were ground and the flour mixed with normal, white flour to obtain a new product at a low price. Nowadays, burnt wheat flour is made by toasting the grains for a dark colour and an intense flavour.

Not only pork

In Bovino, you can still taste food that has ancient origins and was made by shepherds during transhumance. “Micischia” is de-boned sheep or goat meat, cut into strips, preserved in a salty pickle, and then sun-dried. The result is a compact, brown food that has a strong taste.



Cheeses

cardoons, wild asparagus, wild fennel and wild chicory. And to celebrate Ferragosto (15th August) in Lucera and towards the plains, they eat **stuffed free-range rooster**.

Second courses are not, however, exclusively **meat-based**. Typical dishes are aubergine parmigian, stuffed aubergine, bread balls in tomato sauce, “wedded” vegetables (stewed with meats), stuffed artichokes and a vegetable stew called *ciambottella*.

Among fresh **cheeses**, mozzarella fiordilatte, canestrato and ricotta take pride of place. Then there’s a riot of **seasoned cheeses**: sheep’s cheeses, scamorza and caciocavallo. Monteleone di Puglia’s cheese in particular is something special.

Side dishes – These are true delights for the palate: fresh salads, stir-fried vegetables, fried courgette flowers in batter (with or without caciocavallo or ricotta stuffing), fried eggplant rolls stuffed with mint, fried green peppers, wild mushrooms, king trumpet mushrooms and fried or stewed peppers, potatoes, onions and tomatoes.

Bread – What’s a second course without **bread**? It is not merely an accompaniment to the food, but one of the delights of lunch or dinner. Watch out if they bring it out in the short wait between courses: you could finish the whole basket before you even start eating your food. Every village hereabouts produces delicious bread, but if you want something different, look in **Ascoli Satriano**!

If you get peckish between meals, just look for a bakery. You’ll find **taralli**, **scaldatelli**, **focaccia** with tomatoes, potatoes, onions or lard crackling and **rantinije**, a cornflour pizza reminiscent of baked polenta.

“A riot of seasoned cheeses: pecorini, scamorze, caciocavallo. That of Monteleone di Puglia is indeed special”



Wine

Wine – All that has to be washed down with wine and the Monti Dauni produce many delicious grapes and wines. **Nero di Troia** is a native grape and is the third Apulian black-grape variety by cultivated acreage, after Negramaro and Primitivo. Apparently even Frederick II loved drinking the dark and full-bodied Troia wine (DOC), whose origin mythologically dates back to Diomedes' arrival in Apulia although it may well have originated from the Spanish *rioja* and been transplanted to Apulia in the Aragonese period by the D'Avalos family. The “*Summarrello*” variety, with its cylindrical bunch and smaller grapes, is only produced in limited quantities in the town of Troia and its surrounding area.

The wonderful “**Cacc'e mmit**” of Lucera (DOC) is made from mostly nero di troia and sangiovese grapes, but has a special rosy tinge, as producers use up to 30% white grapes (bombino, malvasia, or trebbiano).

Tuccanese (IGT) is another ancient native grape variety that nearly became extinct. Fortunately it has been preserved thanks to the steadfastness and perseverance of some **Orsara di Puglia** producers. It probably originates from the Sicilian Perricone – it might therefore have reached Apulia in the Aragonese period – but its origin from Campanian Piediroso or even Sangiovese has not been ruled out.

Beer – Beer lovers can find extremely good **craft beer** in the Monti Dauni, such as **Pietramontecorvino**.

Cookery schools – Take a journey through the unique local flavours by visiting the restaurants of several **cookery schools** that have set up in the Monti Dauni. Specially designed for those who fall in love with local products and cuisine and decide to steal their secrets.

Cacc u tuje ca mmette u mije

Wine presses and tanks were rented to people who wanted to make their own wine. To let as many people as possible use the equipment, you could only rent it for a day. A farmer, therefore, would remove the newly-made must from the tank (“Cacc”, “to take out”) and take it to his cellar. The next farmer would then pour his grapes into the tank to be pressed (“Mmitte”, “to put in”).



"Atterrate" (chocolate-coated) almonds

"**Castel di Pietra**", in the Duke's Palace of Pietramontecorvino, is an unmissable experience for a full immersion weekend divided between fine food lessons and guided visits to local producers.

Meanwhile cooks and foodies from all over the world flock to the **International Cookery School ofeppe Zullo** in Orsara di Puglia, which uses produce from its own kitchen garden, vineyard and wood in line with its philosophy of "No distance between field and table!"

Sagre – There are an impressive number of **sagre** (food festivals) you can visit in the Monti Dauni, predominantly in the summer months, ranging from an orecchiette festival to one for prosciutto, accompanied by musical evenings, cultural initiatives and food and wine tastings on the village streets. Read on for some unmissable events.

Summer on the Monti Dauni starts with a celebration of one of the symbols of local gastronomy: **asparagus**. On the second Sunday in June both **Candela** and **Giardinetto** (Orsara di Puglia) host a festival of dishes whose key ingredient is this "food of kings". The last Sunday in June sees the **Monti Dauni Typical Products Fair** take place in **Roseto Valfortore**: a special event for those who want to take home several flavourful products from the region in one fell swoop.

An especially charming event is scheduled for the last weekend in June, when the **Galleria Enogastronomica Orsarese**, the Wine and Food Gallery of Orsara, presents a series of local wine and food tastings in the streets of the village to a musical accompaniment.

Don't forget the first Saturday in July if you want to find out all there is to know about Nero di Troia. Make your way to Troia, where the **Regional**

The sweets of Monti Dauni

In addition to the baked biscuits made with *vin cotto* and almonds (**pupatielli o esse**), sweets are traditionally linked to festivities. On the day of the dead (All Saints' Day) people eat **muscitaglia**, also known as **cicce cuotte**: boiled wheat, cooked must, pomegranate arils, walnut and, in the richer versions, chocolate chips. At Christmas the "**atterrate**" almonds: toasted and covered in chocolate; **calzoncelli** filled with chickpeas (yes, chickpeas!), cooked must, chocolate and walnuts, almonds or ricotta. The **cartelate**, or **krustule**, are made with egg dough, serrated edges, fried then covered with cooked must and ground almonds. At Easter, choose between the sweet ricotta cake, called **pastone** or **pizza farrate**, and **squarcella**, also called **pizzepalumme**: a biscuit with icing and colourful candies.



Asparagus

Conference on Troia Grapes takes place, followed by a food and wine tasting tour.

August, however, is “sagra” month!

On the first Sunday you have to choose between Deliceto's Orecchiette Festival, Rocchetta Sant'Antonio's tasting tour “History and flavours”, or Faeto's Prosciutto Festival.

On 8th August **Monteleone di Puglia** expects you for its **caciocavallo, c'catiell e acc** Festival, on 11th August you can attend the **Wild Boar Festival** in **Casalnuovo Monterotaro** and on 14th August the **Gusta Candela** tasting tour awaits you.

On 22nd August the Folk Festival in Borgo Antico – **Sagra di Cruskele, Pizz Fritt, Recchiètelle and typical products** enlivens the historic centre of **Bovino**. Over the last few years guests from the Bovino Short Film Festival have assisted in the preparation of some dishes.

In **Alberona**, the **Mediterranean Diet Festival** kicks off on the penultimate weekend in August, whilst nearby **Roseto Valfortore** hosts its **Truffle Festival** on the last Sunday in September.

The **Eel Festival** on 18th October takes place in **Volturara Appula** as part of the Festa and Fiera di San Luca. The last sagra of the autumn is the **Sagra dei Cicce cuotte** (cake of the dead) in **Sant'Agata di Puglia** on 1st November. Then, finally, on the first Sunday in February, everyone flocks to **Faeto** for the **Fete de le cajunne** – the Pork Festival.

A very slow snail

*Orsara di Puglia is the fine food capital of the Monti Dauni. This small, medieval village has, for years, protected and promoted its typical dishes, so much so that, in 2007, it became a **Cittàslow** (Slow Town) and joined the international network of communities that work to improve the quality of life. Here, as many as 12 restaurateurs have joined the “Zero Mile Menu” initiative.*

Donna Antonietta P'tt'lon and Cotta Cotta

*Every August, Antonietta P'tt'lon used to cook beef tripe in the street, unaware that she had started a tradition. The Cotta Cotta, as it's known, is pieces of veal tripe, boiled at length with tomato, celery, salt and other flavourings. Every year, on 10th August, **Troia** awaits you with this and other delicacies.*



**Coming soon: the Taste
Centre of the Monti Dauni**

The Taste Centre of the Monti Dauni is being created in the beautiful setting of the former Convent of San Francesco in Troia. A showcase for the best local wines and fine foods, it will host wine and food events, presentations and educational workshops on the Mediterranean Diet and correct nutrition.

PREVIEW





MONTI DAUNI

Discover Puglia



THE VIA FRANCIGENA



THE VIA FRANCIGENA

A Millenarian Journey



Vie Francigene between Europe and the Mediterranean

The **Via Francigena**, formerly known as the “**Via Francesca**” or “**Romea**”, is part of a series of routes that run from **Canterbury** to **Rome**, then continue onwards to **Jerusalem**: a path across history, it was a highway travelled in their thousands by pilgrims, merchants and armies. It was a true **cultural crossroads** that fundamentally contributed to the construction of a **European culture**.

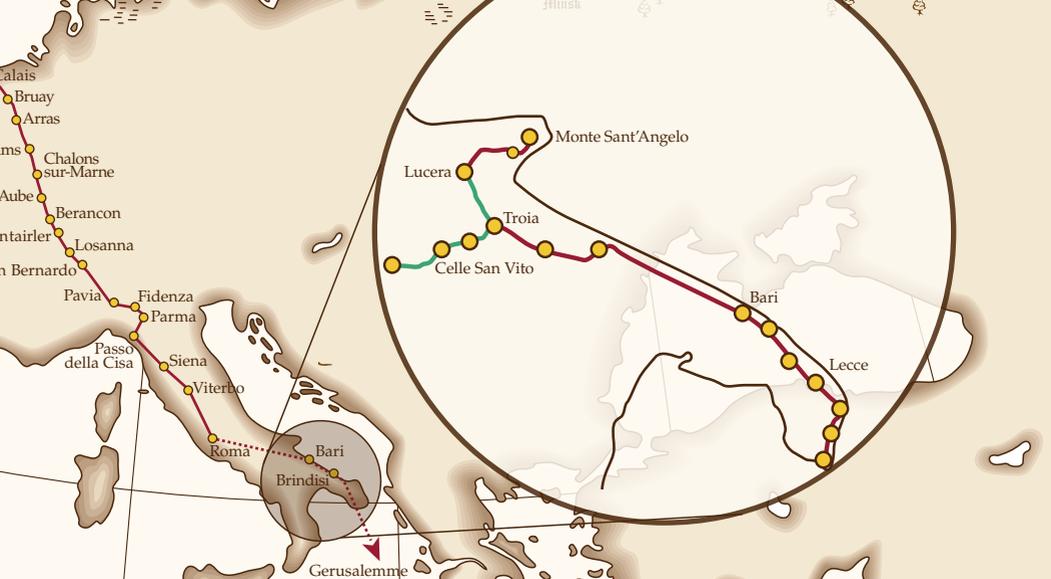
For this reason, since 2004 the Via Francigena – together with the Santiago de Compostela Trail and other routes – has been part of the “**European Cultural Itineraries**”, a European Council Programme that promotes a myriad of trails running between large cities of art and small medieval villages, monasteries and abbeys, cultural heritage sites and landscapes.

The **Apulia Region**, having recognised this project as an excellent way to highlight the scope and variety of its landscape, criss-crossed as it is by ancient pathways connecting Europe to the Mediterranean and the East, joined the **European Association of Vie Francigene**.

The aim of the “**Vie Francigene of Apulia**” project is to encourage visitors to cross Apulia at a sedate pace, to enable encounters between different peoples, a dialogue between religions and promote knowledge of the immense heritage of the people who have travelled across these lands for millennia with admiration and amazement.

Such was the importance of the **pilgrimage** in the Middle Ages, that about a thousand years ago significant numbers of people started crossing Europe “*in search of the Lost Heavenly Homeland*”. The pilgrimage had to be done mainly on foot (for penitential reasons), covering

“The via Francigena: an actual crossroads that has fundamentally contributed to building the European culture”



The Via Francigena

about 20-25 km a day, and included devotional visits to Christian holy places. There were three main stopping places along the way: first and foremost **Rome**, site of the martyrdom of Saint Peter and Saint Paul; **Santiago de Compostela**, where the apostle Saint James chose to rest in peace; and of course **Jerusalem**, in the Holy Land.

The first documents mentioning the existence of a **Via Francigena** in Apulia date back to the 13th century and refer to a section of road in the countryside around **Troia** that joined the plateau shrines with those of the “Sacred Mountain” in the Gargano. “Franchi” means foreigners from beyond the Alps, namely those pilgrims from Britain, Ireland and the northern regions of France and Germany who crossed the Alps and then travelled the length of the Italian peninsula to the religious sites of Rome, the Gargano, the Shrine of Saint Nicholas in Bari and then on to Brindisi, where they embarked for the East.

As the cult of Saint Michael the Archangel spread, pilgrims no longer headed straight for the main Apulian ports as quickly as possible, but went by way of the *Appartito* Shrine on Monte Sant'Angelo. For this reason, medieval documents also refer to the Via as the *Strata peregrinorum* or *Strata magna quae pergit ad Sanctum Michaellem*.

Along the paths of devotion

*These paths, these ancient flagstones, have, over the centuries, seen thousands of pilgrims, travelling in groups, carrying the insignia of their pilgrimage (the shell for Santiago de Compostela, the key for Saint Peter in Rome, the cross for Jerusalem). Not everyone used the same road for there were many routes to choose from depending on the season, the political situation, the religious beliefs of the group, potential natural impediments and – obviously – on the **Hospitali** (inns) and places to stay.*



Vie Francigene of the Monti Dauni

An unspoilt environment and a landscape that has not been aggressively changed by man, defined by a slow pace of life, ancient customs, ritual gestures, genuine devotion, unrivalled spirituality, unbroken silence, authenticity and quality products. This is the extraordinary setting that awaits travellers on the **Vie Francigene** as they enter Apulia across the **Monti Dauni**.

The Vie Francigene are a wonderful reason to travel in the Monti Dauni, an area containing extraordinary religious sites, not far from San Giovanni Rotondo and the millenarian Shrine of Monte Sant'Angelo (recently recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site) and an increasing number of visitors follow ancient paths that retrace the footsteps of history: Roman roads (especially the Via Appia Traiana), the Via Micaelica, the Sacred Way of the Longobards and the historical sheep trails (the Tratturi transhumance).

The **Appia Traiana** reached the Daunia after the *Aequum Tuticum* station, commonly identified as being near Ariano Irpino. From here the road ascended towards the **San Vito Pass** and, after crossing the plateau of the same name, then descended through the so-called Buccolo or "Vuccolo" towards the **city of Aecae**, whose remains were still visible as late as a few centuries ago in the districts of Martelli and Casina, two kilometres north of the medieval city of Troia.

Today the Vie Francigene enter Apulia through the territories of **Faeto**, **Celle San Vito** and **Castelluccio Valmaggiore**, overlooking **Orsara di Puglia** and extending as far as **Troia**. Paths crossing the Apennines feature stretches at high altitude (between San Vito 940 metres above sea level and Monte Buccolo 852 metres above sea level) and beautiful valleys containing water courses of the Sannoro and other tributaries of the Cervaro, preserving an environment of mainly hill pasture that has now largely disappeared elsewhere.

The entire route has undergone "light infrastructural work", so that upgraded **hiking trails** have been combined with predominantly traffic-free roads and cart tracks from within the existing network of routes, with itineraries selected on the basis of pilgrim safety, items of historical and cultural relevance such as basalt roads and churches, the availability of hostels, provision of isolated and shaded stretches, and places to obtain water and refreshments.

For more information see:

European Association of Vie Francigene

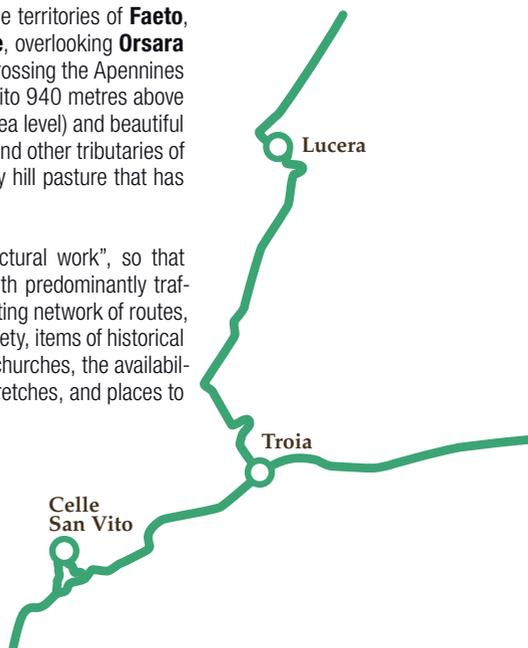
European Council Supporting Network

www.viefrancigene.org

www.viefrancigenedelsud.it

To the Sacred Mountains or South bound

*In **Troia**, pilgrims might have continued towards the **Gargano**, following the path taken by **Saint Michael**, after stopping in the beautiful city of art of **Lucera**. Or they might have headed south to reach the main ports in Apulia, which have always been gateways to the Mediterranean, the Orient and the Holy Land (Manfredonia, Barletta, Molfetta, Trani, Bari, Brindisi, Otranto, and Leuca).*



MONTI DAUNI

Discover Puglia



TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS



1

TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS

THE VISAGES OF MARY

Many of the religious places in the Monti Dauni are consecrated to the Virgin. In most cases the religious buildings house sublime icons of Mary. This itinerary takes you to statues that will help you discover the thousand-year-old worship of this corner of Apulia for the Mother of Christ.



DAY 1 : SAN MARCO LA CATOLA – VOLTURINO – LUCERA

A route dedicated to the black Madonnas has to include the image of Our Lady in the **Abbey of Saint Mary of Jehoshaphat in San Marco La Catola**: it is a bas-relief depicting the Virgin from the waist up holding the Child, who rests His arm on her neck. It has Romanesque style features, with Byzantine form influences, which is the reason why, according to tradition, it came from the Orient, brought by people from the VI Crusade with Frederick II.

A fine black-faced Virgin sculpted in cedar wood awaits you in **Volturino**, at the shrine in **Serritella**. Here, she dissuaded 300 soldiers from retaliating against the village.

The Madonna, seated on a wooden stool, holds the baby Jesus in her left arm and a crown of golden ears of wheat

in her right. The robe is dark red, decorated with golden stars but for festivities the statue is covered with silk drapes and gold embroidery.

The Virgin in **Lucera** is called **Saint Mary** and is the patron saint of the town. Her effigy is kept in the cathedral: it is a beautiful 14th century statue of a black Madonna, enthroned and holding the baby Jesus in her arms. The statue was a gift to the town - which took the name of *Civitas Sanctae Mariae* - by Charles II d'Anjou, who, in 1300, defeated the Saracens on the very day of the Assumption and, according to tradition, following the intercession of the Virgin. The statue is thought to be able to grant miracles since, for centuries, Lucera has been left unscathed by the many earthquakes that have devastated Capitanata.

DAY 2 : ORSARA DI PUGLIA – BOVINO – DELICETO

Forget the tiny and delicate Madonnas, typical of much Catholic iconography. The **Madonna della Neve** in the **Chiesa di San Nicola ad Orsara** will amaze you with its majesty. The 18th century statue is remarkable for its size and decoration. It is standing, richly draped in golden robes, the head protected by an ample mantle and a crown, the face is seraphic. She holds the baby Jesus in both hands. He holds a book, also golden.

Going to **Bovino**, we encounter the shrine of the **Madonna di Valleverde**, which holds the beautiful statue of the Madonna of Valleverde holding her Son, whose beauty was “rediscovered” in 1965 following a restoration project. Dating to the late 1200s and sculpted in wood, the statue

has medieval robes and decorations and is leaning against a throne. The Madonna is miraculously holding the baby Jesus in her left hand. He holds a small vermilion globe in His left hand and the right hands of both figures gesture to the faithful in blessing.

In **Deliceto**, at the **Chiesa Madre del SS. Salvatore** we see the effigy of the **Madonna dell’Olimitello**, considered the architect of ending the plague in 1656 and cholera in 1837. Recently restored, the polychrome wooden statue, probably dating to the 1300s, depicts a minute Virgin, covered in white robes with rich golden embroidery, olive skin and a crown. Her right hand is held out of the robe, while her left hand, not visible, holds the baby Jesus.

DAY 3 : PANNI – ACCADIA – ROCCHETTA SANT’ANTONIO

A few kilometres from **Panni** is the shrine consecrated to **Maria SS. Inconronata del Bosco**, whose statue was found on a turkey oak by a shepherdess. This Marian icon portrays a sweet female figure, whose grace is heightened by the soft movement of the red and blue robe. The Virgin is crowned and holds the baby Jesus, who is naked, in all His humanity.

A very modern and charitable face is that of **Our Lady of the Carmel** of the **Monte Crispiniano Shrine** in **Accadia**. The statue portrays the Virgin holding the baby Jesus, both wear sumptuous crowns. The Mother of Christ does not look at her Son, but turns her melancholic gaze

elsewhere. A sort of presage of the fate of Jesus appears in the composition. The postures of the figures, forming a hollow with their arms, seems to embrace the faithful.

Head south to **Rocchetta Sant’Antonio**, to the **Shrine of Our Lady of the Well** which preserves the beautiful polychrome wooden sculpture from the 17th century depicting a wistful Madonna. The elegant statue wears light robes wrapped in a dark blue shawl. At the foot of the Virgin are putti. The baby Jesus, who is naked and benedictory, seems to float in His Mother’s arms. The heads of Mother and Son wear two beautiful round crowns.

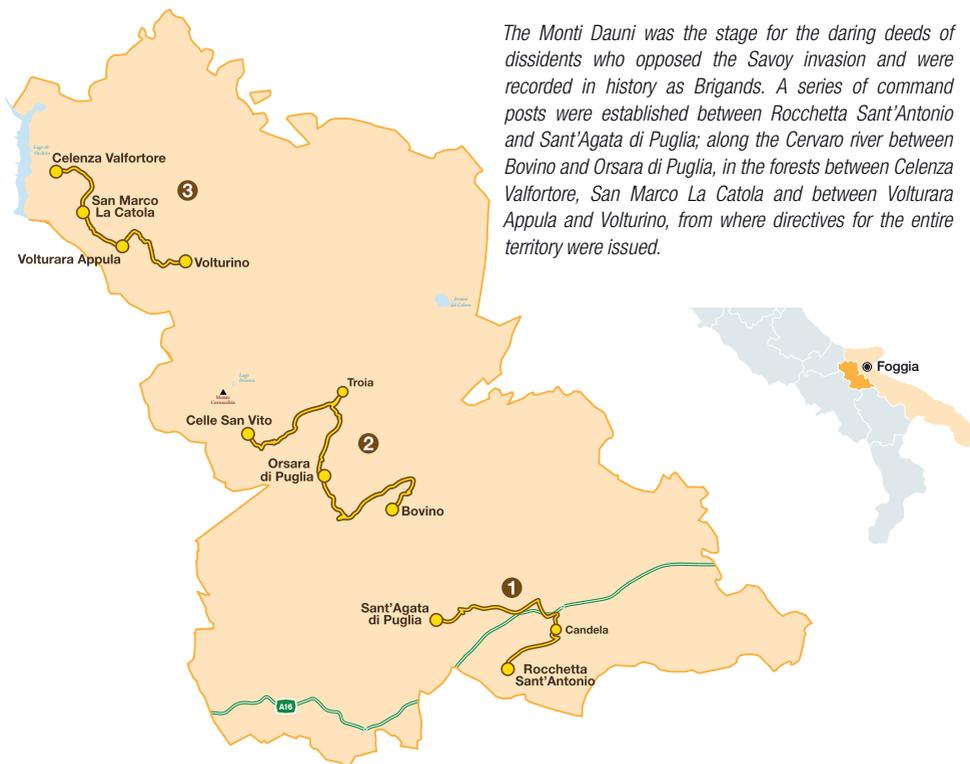


Virgin of the Well, Rocchetta Sant’Antonio

2 TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS

ON THE TRACKS OF BRIGANDS

The Monti Dauni was the stage for the daring deeds of dissidents who opposed the Savoy invasion and were recorded in history as Brigands. A series of command posts were established between Rocchetta Sant'Antonio and Sant'Agata di Puglia; along the Cervaro river between Bovino and Orsara di Puglia, in the forests between Celenza Valfortore, San Marco La Catola and between Volturara Appula and Volturino.



DAY 1 : ROCCHETTA SANT'ANTONIO – SANT'AGATA DI PUGLIA

Rocchetta Sant'Antonio had very close ties with Banditry and the Resistance to Italy's unification, and was the birthplace of many a bandit. In the Chiesa Madre, a prominent memorial stone in honour of the fallen of the Savoy army is, in fact, anything but. The stone features two up-turned torches which, in the language of symbols, indicate the damnation of the Piedmontese. In the same building we find the altar dedicated to Saint Pasquale, that the Bortone family had erected. The story goes that the Bortone had been robbed by the brigands but was "miraculously" refunded by their mule, whose name was Pasquale, who returned home loaded with gold. When walking around the village, have the locals tell you of the expedients used by the archpriest Piccolo to avert a reprisal by the Piedmontese army on the morning when eight soldiers were to be killed.

A visit to the birthplace of the " Sparviero", the brigand Giuseppe Schiavone is a must. Walk around the alleyways of **Sant'Agata di Puglia**, past staircases, stately

► If you have more time

Going down into the Ofanto river valley, from **Rocchetta Sant'Antonio** you reach the Chianga Fountain (a dialect term that refers to the butchering stone), so named because it was a place of looting and carnage. Or, take a trip to see the farmsteads that were used as hideouts by the brigands, such as Montevaccaro between Rocchetta and Lacedonia.

Not far from **Sant'Agata di Puglia** is the brigands' rock, called Santulize. Allegedly, the hollows in the huge rock were used as units of measurement, to divide the spoils of pillage and raids.

mansions and small peasant houses and let yourself be transported back in time, to that social and economic milieu that prompted the former Bourbon soldier to go into hiding,

rather than serve the Savoy army. After diving into yesterday, go down to the valley, follow the Calaggio river, to the abscending Schiavone's first hiding place.

DAY ② : BOVINO – ORSARA DI PUGLIA – CELLE SAN VITO

As well as being crossed by the river which gives it its name, the **Cervaro Valley** is also crossed by the Royal Apulia Road (currently the SS 90). Historically the main connecting road between Naples and Apulia, the valley, surrounded by wide forests and natural caves, was a favourite place for the bands of brigands to hide, as well as to attack passing travellers. Things became so bad that travellers, before starting off, had a habit of making a will. In Capitanata, even today, those who get robbed are asked: "did you go through the **Bovino** valley?".

The river is the starting point to climb the sides of the mountains. From the Bridge of Bovino, where the Post Office acted as tavern, go into the village, until you reach the mythical hiding place for the brigands' treasures: the Grotte dei Porcili. Further up are more caves used as "dwellings". From there you can reach the village, which was raided twice in 1860, made even more terrifying by the fact that the brigands were assisted by the local population. This led to violent action against the authorities who were subservient to the new Savoy power: the town hall and the bishop's palace were burned down. Along the Royal Road, towards Ariano Irpino, on the right, is the mountain that leads to **Orsara di Puglia** – another favourite haunt for the

bands of Giuseppe Schiavone, Antonio Petrozzi and Leonardo Scrima: Cervellino. Lurking in the woods, the bandits didn't just rob people. They also did a spot of kidnapping too. Delivering demands for a ransom. Orsara still bears the scars of bloody events tied to the unification of Italy: on Provincial Road 123 to Troia, just outside the village, there are five iron crosses. Five very young Orsara brigands were executed here. Continue on Provincial Road 123 to Piano dei Perazzi, the place where the worst massacre of that time took place. Here on 23rd June 1863, men led by Giuseppe Caruso and Giuseppe Schiavone slaughtered 20 people: national guards and civilians, including the then deputy mayor of Orsara, who apparently met his death at the hands of Filomena Pennacchio.

► If you have more time

Travel back down the **Strada Regia delle Puglie** and stop at the entrances to the forests, spot the remains of the command posts, described by Verga in the short story "Certi Argomenti" (Certain Topics) and remember the garrisons were tried to counter the banditry.

If you go from **Orsara di Puglia** to Crepacore and then towards **Celle San Vito** you reach another symbolic site of banditry: Monte Buccolo, on the Via Traiana (Francigena).

DAY ③ : CELENZA VALFORTORE – SAN MARCO LA CATOLA – VOLTURARA APPULA – VOLTURINO

Gianbattista Varanelli, nicknamed il Titta came from **Celenza Valfortore**. A walk along the streets of this old village is, therefore, a must. From cowherd to implacable brigand, this Celenzano ended up leading a band of about one hundred men and terrorised the villages nearby. To find out where Titta did his dastardly deeds and where he hid afterwards, means taking a trip into the forests of Celenza and San Marco la Catola, all the way to Monte Sambuco, on horseback if you like, just like the brigands. Another village that you should visit is **Volturara Appula**, the birthplace of Pasquale Recchia, called Pasqualillo. Volturara, in fact, was the epicentre of the activities of a group of brigands, led by Pasqualillo, thanks to the commanding position over the Castel di Sangro – Lucera Royal Sheep

Trail. After visiting the village, walk along a section of the sheep trail that crosses the land of Volturara or explore the forest "Bosco di S. Antonio".

► If you have more time

San Marco La Catola was the place where Titta was taken, severely injured, after being captured and eventually executed. His body was barbarically displayed for two days in front of the Chiesa Madre.

Ransacked by Pasqualillo, **Volturino** risked repercussions by the Piedmontese, who were convinced that the village connived with the brigands. The village was only saved from certain destruction by the **Madonna of the Serritella**. She persuaded the soldiers, who had been ordered to retaliate, not to fulfil the command.

3 TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS

GUIDED BY STONES

Visit the Monti Dauni and take this itinerary that guides you to discover man-made stone items, that express the greatness of human ingenuity in carved stone.



DAY 1 : ROSETO VALFORTORE – PIETRAMONTECORVINO

Roseto Valfortore had a great school of stonemasons. Over the centuries, they did not just embellish their own village with their work, but often the nearby villages as well. Their works are recognisable thanks to the stone used (taken from a quarry to the south of the village, it is a beautiful, unmistakable greenish grey colour), as well as their special signature – the wild rose, a symbol of the village, to which it owes its name. To fully appreciate the magnificence of the work done by these craftsmen, find the **balustrade** at the entrance to the **Chiesa Madre di Santa Maria Assunta**, and look at the several carved Roseto stone slabs: in addition to the plant and floral motifs, and the obvious wild rose, the Benedictory Christ figure is of immeasurable beauty. Not far from the religious building, near the amphitheatre, the façade of a palazzo features two beautiful **bas-reliefs** depicting two noble men in the sleep of death.

Head north to **Pietramontecorvino** to appreciate the stonemasons' work in the beautiful church consecrated to **Santa Maria Assunta**. Inside, in addition to the fine baptismal font, are two **16th century arks** of rare beauty which, due to the colour of the stone and the repeated carved rose motif, would lead us to presume that they, too, are the work of the Roseto master stonemasons. The entrance to the Duke's Palace features a lunette in a triple pointed arch with **bas-relief of the Agnus Dei**.

► If you have more time

In the old part of **Roseto Valfortore**, look for the fine *Fontana del Titolo*, another example of the skill of the local stonemasons. Stone is also prevalent at the parish museum in **Pietramontecorvino**. Among the most remarkable items is a sarcophagus and a carved epigraph.

DAY ② : TROIA – ORSARA DI PUGLIA

In **Troia**, you'll find what is likely to be the most amazing stone item found in the Monti Dauni: the **Rose Window** of the **Cattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta**. It consists of eleven columns with Corinthian capitals, arranged radially and joined by as many semicircular arches that cross to form, at the intersections, arabesque ogives and triangular spaces that contain transoms and trefoils, all fret-worked with different decorations. Inside the building, stone

► If you have more time

Stone will continue to amaze you inside the **Troia** local museum with the sarcophagus of **San Secondino**, and the sepulchral slab of **Rubria Marcella**.

Inside the **Chiesa dell'Annunziata** in **Orsara di Puglia** you will be moved by the remains of another stone crucifix, this time a Byzantine one.

continues to talk to us with the **Ambo** featuring a panel decorated with an eagle that holds the book of God's Word in outstretched wings. Another panel decorated in bas-relief depicts a lion, symbolising the Roman empire, set on by a dog, the Jewish people, devouring a lamb, Christ.

In **Orsara di Puglia** the **Chiesa Madre** consecrated to **Saint Nicholas** holds a remarkable work of art: a **stone crucifix**, probably from the Aragonese age. The work depicts, on one side, Jesus crucified with the Virgin and Saint John weeping at His feet. On the other side is the Virgin with the baby Jesus on Her lap. The lines of the figures are beautiful, with the odd detail of coral around the neck of baby Jesus. According to tradition the extraordinary sculpture comes from the no longer existing Crepacore castle.

DAY ③ : BOVINO – ASCOLI SATRIANO

Man began carving stone for the first time in Apulia on the Monti Dauni and the result can be appreciated inside the **"G. Nicastro" museum** in **Bovino**. The **megalithic funerary monuments** (Stele) in carved stone, date to the 3rd millennium BC. This rectangular-shaped item, carved on one side, is normally tapered at the bottom to plant it more easily in the ground. There are two types: one depicts a stylised woman (a trunk without limbs or head, with carvings of a necklace, breasts, navel, hips, a belt, and the pubic triangle). The other symbolises a man (a dagger from which gushes forth a stream).

Now move south east to reach Ascoli Satriano, where several marble works from the Daunian and Roman ages await us in the "P. Rosario" Museum. Among the items is the sublime complex of the **Gryphons**. This carved support for a ritual table comes from Turkey and dates to the 4th century BC. It was found in a Daunian grave. The two mythical animals that devour a doe, and which perhaps allude to a tragic death, will leave you breathless with their beauty and perfection.

► If you have more time

After seeing the beautiful bas-relief above the entrance to the **Cappellone of San Marco**, placed next to the Cathedral in **Bovino**, wander around the town and try to find your favourite carved stone portals.

From **Ascoli Satriano** head for the **Faragola** late imperial villa and stop to look at the slab decorating the cenatio, depicting a female figure and a snake.



Stele, "G. Nicastro" Town Museum, Bovino

MONTI DAUNI

Discover Puglia



The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy



Touring Club's Orange Flag



Cittàslow

THE VILLAGES





This village, a treasure chest of stone, preserves the memories of the area and gracefully reveals its history and traditions. From prehistoric caves to Greek mythology, from Roman roads to Swabian fortifications, the landscape is filled with fascination. Set in the peace and quiet of Monte Tre Titoli, among springs and verdant forests, Accadia will amaze you with the

“dolomitic” views of the **Pietra di Punta Gorges** and the similarity with the Sassi di Matera of the **Rione Fossi**, ancient dwellings carved out of the stone. The village is perfect for active tourism thanks to the many nature areas filled with ancient oaks, including **Bosco Paduli**, criss-crossed with paths for walking and hiking or to explore on horseback.

WHAT TO SEE



Rione Fossi

This ancient urban jewel resembles the shape of a snail’s shell, where cobbled streets and winding alleys form a delightful maze. The Rione Fossi area is a mosaic of stone, caves and medieval homes carved right out of stone. A unique setting for cultural and musical events, or for magical, romantic walks at night.

Fontana Monumentale

A miniature *pantheon* in neoclassical style, of particular note are the three stone drinking fountains and the watering trough.

Porta di Capo Arch

A monumental gate to Rione Fossi, the Porta di Capo is a wonderful medieval stone arch that opens onto the Enrico Ferro piazza.

Clock Tower

In stone and coloured bricks, it features two bas-reliefs, a reproduction of the door panel of the Maschio Angioino Castle in Naples. It depicts the Aragonese siege of 1462 and contains an epigraph by the humanist, Giovanni Pontano.

WHAT TO DO



Town Museum

Palazzo Vassalli (16th century), with its beautiful loggia, is home to a precious collection of medieval items including many objects tied to peasant tradition.

The Pietra di Punta Gorges

The Frugno stream spills from white walls plunged in dense vegetation. Follow the stream to waterfalls and ponds edged by willows and poplars.

Monte Crispiniano

This nature area has good paths between the *Fontana dell’Eremita* and the high pastures.

Paduli Forest

Ancient oak trees, bubbling springs and wild orchids are just some of the splendours of nature to be found in this reserve. The hiking paths go deep into the still forest, making this area an unmissable opportunity for trekking and mountain bike enthusiasts.

Trekking

An excellent network of paths, carefully mapped, leads to the heart of the extraordinary natural landscape of Accadia. Choose from relaxing walks to demanding hikes.



Rione Fossi

NEARBY



Santuario della Madonna del Carmine

This shrine, on Monte Crispignano, has extremely old origins. It's said to be a sacred and artistic place where, according to local tradition, Our Lady appeared to a shepherd boy.

Chiesa S. Maria Maggiore

Immersed in nature, at the foot of the Pietra di Punta Gorges, this small church is consecrated to Santa Maria Maggiore, also known as the Teutons.

Contrada Rotato

The ruins of a Roman "Taverna" (or roadhouse) once hosted travellers who stopped to forage their animals.

The village of Agata delle Noci

This tiny village has the ruins of a water mill from 1600, called Mulino del Duca, and the delightful church of Santa Maria del Sambuco.

EVENTS



July

The enchanting, torchlight procession to Monte Crispignano is held in the evening of **15th July**. On the **16th**, the feast of the **Madonna del Carmine** is celebrated with a solemn procession to the Shrine on Monte Crispignano.

Accadia Blues is the International Blues Festival that attracts world-class artists and electrifies the Rione Fossi on the third weekend of the month.

August

The middle weeks of August come alive with the Festival of Arts and Entertainment "**Appennino art'n fest**".

Accadia dedicates the middle week of the month to courses and shows in folk dancing: the **Carovana folk art (Zingaria folk festival)**.

December

Live nativity in Rione Fossi (third week of the month).

TO TASTE



Incredible dairy products and fabulous extra-virgin olive oil are the results of the traditions of animal farming and agriculture. Typical dishes include "*Lagn'e fasul*", tagliolini with beans typically eaten at the feast of Saint Sebastian, and the "*Ciambotta*", a mixture of aubergine, potatoes, peppers, courgettes, tomatoes and onions. These dishes are even more delicious with a glass or two of an excellent local wine, especially Rochiano.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant "Il Melograno"

tel. +39 0881 981628

cell. +39 333 8812600

Farmstay

"Santa Maria"

tel. +39 0881 981282

cell. +39 380 5154957

www.agriturismosantamaria.eu

Pizzeria Restaurant "Mix"

cell. +39 338 7803399

Restaurant "Donna Serafina"

tel. +39 0881 986108

cell. +39 342 1010533

Ristopub Pizzeria "Via Borgo 72"

cell. +39 345 4918406

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B "Maison Antoinette"

cell. +39 347 4901488

B&B "Il Sambuco"

cell. +39 333 9553045

Boarding House "Il Melograno"

tel. +39 0881 981628

cell. +39 333 8812600

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.accadia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 981012

Local Tourist Office:

Via Borgo, 24

tel. +39 0881 986106

prolocoaccadia@tiscali.it

Verdemediterraneo:

Excursions and activities from the

Environmental Education Centre

tel. +39 338 1032656

mf.verdemediterraneo@libero.it



Alberona is known as a “town of water”. And it’s easy to see why: springs and streams abound, like the **Canale dei Tigli** and its little waterfalls, and there are fountains, like the **Fontana Muta**, everywhere. A medieval village framed by lush forest, a guardian of a past whose history is tied to the Knights Templar and the Knights of Malta. Alberona has

truly monumental architecture, hidden alleys, and offers breathtaking landscapes from the **Muraglione panoramic viewpoint**. No surprise then, to learn that the village has collected two prestigious awards: the “**Orange Flag**” for exceptional environmental and tourist quality, and named as one of “**The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy**”.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa Madre della Natività di Maria Vergine SS., detta Chiesa Priorale.

Built in the 18th century on the remains of a Templar chapel, the altar contain the remains of San Vitale Martire and features a pyramid-based bell tower with a military past.

Grand Prior Palace and Tower

This 12th century complex was home to the Knights Templar then to the Knights of Malta. It joins the Chiesa Madre by underground passages. The Tower is majestic and dominates the landscape.

Chiesa di San Giuseppe

The building dates back to the mid 17th century. The remarkable sculpted entrance is in stone from nearby Roseto Valfortore.

Chiesa di San Rocco

The neo-gothic architecture features a bell tower in a northern European style. Built between the 16th and 18th centuries, it holds the statues of San Martino and Santa Brigida of Sweden, in Lecce Papier-mâché.

Calabrian Arch

A perfectly preserved, 14th century arch with wooden, vaulted ceiling.

Municipal Antiquarium

The museum displays the great archaeological heritage from the ancient Dauni people.

Fontana Muta

This ancient fountain was called “muta” (mute) because the water flows so quietly into the imposing stone watering troughs.

WHAT TO DO



Organise Orienteering routes and take part in competitions in the old town of Alberona. Contact the Monti Dauni Orienteering Association.

Forests

Alberona’s forests are a remarkable natural heritage. Explore them, take part in fascinating didactic activities, and witness unforgettable nights like San Lorenzo (to watch shooting stars).

Canale dei Tigli

For hiking enthusiasts, the Canale dei Tigli is highly recommended for rock walls made smooth by running water, overhangs and waterfalls.

Villaggio Arancione - A. Petti

The multi-purpose sports-tourist centre at Alberona has football and beach volleyball fields, and swimming pools

which are open in the summer. Nearby is the fine municipal amphitheatre.

Wild Boar Fauna Area

Wild boar – another one of the wonders of the Monti Dauni – can be seen a few kilometres from the village in this 4-hectare nature reserve

NEARBY



The Peasant Culture Museum

The village museum at Vaccareccia Mezzana houses many fine objects from the ancient local rural tradition.

EVENTS



January

On 17th January, flames, art and faith make the **Sant'Antonio Abate bonfire festival** unique. It's a tradition that involves the entire village and lots of bonfires.

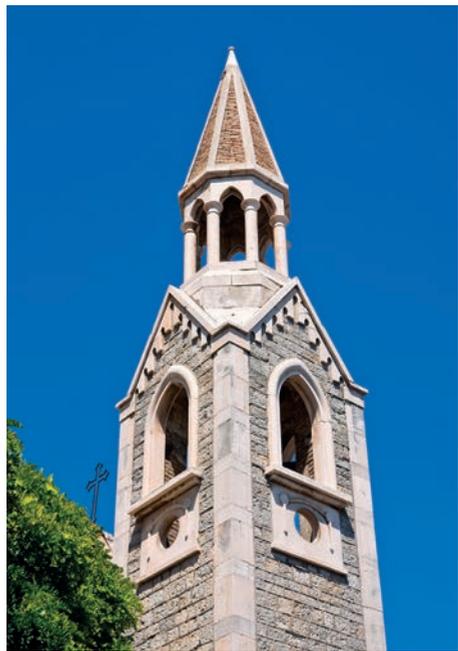
August

San Giovanni Battista is celebrated on 29th August, the anniversary of his beheading, with the procession of the faithful. On 30th August, the evening's events include music and fireworks.

Culture, flavours and colours combine in Alberona on the third weekend in August for the **Mediterranean Diet Festival**, an event organised in cooperation with the UNESCO Club.

December/January

On 24th December and 6th January the "centro storico" (historic centre) puts on a **live nativity**.



Chiesa di San Rocco

TRIVIA



The fountains – the many springs in the area feed the village's beautiful fountains. Crystal clear, fresh, ice cold water gushes from the *Fontana Muta*, the *Pisciarelli* fonts (in the street of the same name) and from the pretty *Fontanelle*. In via Belvedere, you can admire both the fine *Belvedere* fountain as well the amazing views.

WHERE TO EAT

Bar Locanda

"I Templari di Alberona"

tel. +39 0881 592203

cell. +39 330 787732

www.itemplari dialberona.com

Restaurant Pizzeria

"Antichi Sapori"

tel. +39 0881 592220

cell. +39 333 5041235

Braceria "Ai Pisciarelli"

cell. +39 368 5 556

+39 340 0815584

Restaurant "Da Liberato"

tel. +39 0881 592368

cell. +39 328 3239721

www.ristorantedaliberato.it

Restaurant "La Villetta"

tel. +39 0881 592042

cell. +39 349 2319032

Pizzeria "Da Gino"

tel. +39 0881 592369

Restaurant "La Casina"

cell. +39 348 0433960

www.ristorantelacasina.it

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B "I Templari di Alberona"

tel. +39 0881 592203

cell. +39 330 787732

B&B "Montauro"

tel. +39 0881 592171

cell. +39 329 3976486

Boarding House "Da Liberato"

tel. +39 0881 592368

cell. +39 328 3239721

Boarding House "La Villetta"

tel. +39 0881 592042

cell. +39 349 2319032

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.casalnuovomonterotaro.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 592022

Local Tourist Office: www.prolocoalberona.it

Municipal Antiquarium: Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 6

tel. +39 0881 592022

Monti Dauni Orienteering: tel. +39 340 6143006



A frontier land, a crossroads of traditions. The small village of Anzano has an identity of being “on the road to somewhere”. Its coat of arms contains the Roman Consular Road and the “**Taverna**” that hosted Horatius in 20BC. The **Regio Tratturo Pescasseroli-Candela** Sheep Trail runs near Anzano and it is thanks to this that the village seized the opportunity of transhumance to encourage exchanges with Abruzzo and its cultural

and gastronomic traditions. The origins of the village are unclear but since there are numerous markers (like milestones) and given the many ruins, the village has been around for a very long time. Once, it must even have been quite prosperous. Sadly, the historic centre, as well as the Romanesque Chiesa Madre have been destroyed, mainly due to the numerous earthquakes experienced here over the centuries.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa di Santa Maria di Anzano

The building is extremely old but little remains. Earthquakes have taken their toll and the current building was rebuilt after the earthquake which hit in 1930.

Stone portals

Beauty is in the details. The “*Souther stone*” portals are one of the few artistic items that have been spared by the earthquakes and feature prominently on several houses in the centre.

NEARBY



Chiesetta di Mastralessio

This charming little church lies in the village of the same name. The beautiful portals were inherited from the more ancient Church of San Donato.

Il Cippo

A marble milestone in Mastralessio preserves millenarian secrets in its Greek epigraph (the interpretation of which is dubious).

Archaeological area

Following the discovery of ceramic fragments in Riparulo, archaeological excavations unearthed many late Roman and paleo-Christian remains.

WHAT TO DO



Discover the Tratturo Pescasseroli - Candela

A natural area of great interest. Indescribably gorgeous view of the landscape and fields around Anzano. From its recent past as an economic and social thoroughfare, today the Tratturo passes animal sheds (“*pagliai*”), ancient stone farmsteads, old watering troughs and golden crops. It’s an ideal destination for lovers of sports and environmental tourism who enjoy the plentiful opportunities for horse-back trekking, mountain biking and hiking.

CRAFTS



The main local traditions have their roots in shepherding and in the community’s deep bond with the Tratturo. As well as sheep and their shepherds, these places were visited by legions of artisans like the “*formaggiari*” (cheese makers), the “*fuscellari*” (who wove reeds into ricotta and pecorino baskets), the “*maniscalchi*” (who made horseshoes), the “*bassettieri*” (who traded in animal hides) and the “*bastai e sellai*” (who sewed and repaired packs and saddles).





EVENTS



May/June

Santa Maria di Anzano is celebrated on the Monday following Whitsunday. The story goes that oxen refused to carry a statue of the Madonna found by two farmers from Anzano to nearby Treviso.

August

18th August is San Rocco: a day of local folklore, a procession, a brass band, and fireworks.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant Pizzeria

“La Pilella” 

tel. +39 0881 982320

cell. +39 349 3401820

Restaurant “Zi Carluccio”

tel. +39 0881 982023

www.zicarluccio.it

Restaurant Pizzeria “Perbacco”

tel. +39 0881 189 6575

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.anzanodipuglia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 982037 - fax +39 0881 98203



Architecturally and archaeologically speaking, Ascoli Satriano is one of the most interesting *Monti Dauni* villages. Walk its streets to step through time, from Roman bridges to Romanesque churches and rich palaces. From a hillock, looking over the *Carapelle*

valley, the village has had a turbulent life. Like many other villages, Ascoli Satriano was passed from one ruler to the next. Unlike these villages though, it witnessed the defeat of the Romans in 279 BC by the King of Epirus. This bloody, expensive war gave us the expression “a Pyrrhic victory”.

WHAT TO SEE



The Roman Fountains

Reach this important water complex from Santa Maria del Popolo, taking the staircase.

Dauni Archaeological Park

The past is under your feet. Amongst the sacred pre-Roman necropolis on Snake Hill (*collina del serpente*) is the mysterious remains of an ancient dwelling and the wonderful cobblestone pavements for funerals. What's more, the Roman burial chambers and the Augustan mausoleum are remarkable.

Chiesa and Convento di San Potito

This 17th century Franciscan building, with magnificent Baroque wooden choir stalls from 1643, is in honour of the patron saint of Ascoli Satriano. At the front of the complex, beautiful mosaics of a domus date to the 1st-2nd century BC.

Museum Hub Monumental complex of S. Maria del Popolo

Just outside the village is a 15th century complex, with church and monastery, featuring a cloister “in the silence of contemplation”. At the centre is the legendary bell of Mercy.

The complex of Santa Maria del Popolo also houses the **local Museum**, “**Pasquale Rosario**”, with the statue of the “*Hunting child*” and the superb “Gryphons”. In addition, there is the Diocesan Museum that contains the portraits of the Bishops, the “*Madonna and Child enthroned*” and the “*Ecce Homo*” by Luca Giordano.

Chiesa dell'Incoronata

This 13th century church, built in limestone, features an opulent, neoclassic façade. The design is by the celebrated, Luigi Vanvitelli, architect of the Royal Palace in Caserta.

Cattedrale della Natività della Beata Vergine Maria

A 13th century building with outstanding frescoes in the central nave, in the presbytery and in the ambo. The main works include the *Nativity of Mary* by Vito Calò, and the *Transito di San Giuseppe* by Corrado Giaquinto, both from the 18th century, the 14th century wooden crucifix, and the 17th century silver bust of San Potito.

The Duke's Palace

Built on the ruins of an ancient castle, the imposing Duke's Palace features a 1700s portal, an extremely elegant loggia, frescoed rooms and a marvellous internal cobblestone courtyard.



Basilica of Ascoli Satriano

NEARBY



Roman Bridge

On Provincial Road SP105, we find the 2nd century A.D., three-arch stone structure built on Trajan's behest. It represents a superb ancient example of water and road engineering.

Villa Faragola

550m² of luxurious spas in a Roman villa, unique in Southern Italy. Mosaics, decorations and architectural elements like the *stibadium*, lend timeless class to this priceless archaeological site.

WHAT TO DO



A walk in the village

Going down from the castle, our advice is to lose yourself in the maze of streets and alleyways between ordinary houses, rich palaces and tantalising shops. Every now and then, the *trasonn* (the narrow alleyways) find enough space to open out onto a small piazza. The arches stand out in this labyrinth: **Porta Nuova**, next to the **Clock Tower**, with two sculpted lions and a bas-relief of toga wearers, and **Sant'Antonio Abate** also called *San Potito dell'Ospedale*.



TRIVIA



The trapezophoros – In the Museum complex in Ascoli Satriano, you can admire an extraordinary archaeological find: the *trapezophoros*, part of the funerary furnishings of a Macedonian grave in polychrome marbles, depicting two gryphons attacking a deer. An exceptional piece, purchased by the Getty Museum of Malibu together with the *podanipter*, a decorated ritual basin, both returned to Italy in 2010.



EVENTS



January

14th January sees the celebrations in honour of **San Potito Martire**. At the end of the procession, the *“ciuccio di San Potito”* (a donkey made with a metal frame lined with paper and filled with fireworks) is set alight. The celebrations are repeated from 19th to 21st August.

June

At the end of June, don't miss the **Sagra del broccolletto** in the village of San Carlo.

July

The **Wheat festival** is held on the last weekend of July: two days of art and fine food devoted to the golden fruit of the land.

August

On 17th August is the **Festa della Proloco**: a wine and food tasting tour to discover excellent local produce.

WHERE TO EAT

Agricultural Society “Rinaldi”

tel. +39 0885 651220

Agricultural Co-op “Palazzo Piccolo”

tel. +39 339 4263885

Restaurant Pizzeria “Il Tramonto”

tel. +39 0885 662393

www.pizzeriadammimo.altervista.org

Hotel Restaurant “Aurora”

tel. +39 0885 651274

+39 366 7480402

Pub Pizzeria “Black and White”

tel. +39 0885 651369

+39 334 8819080

www.blackandwhitepub.it

Restaurant Pizzeria “Medioevalys”

tel. +39 0885 651665

www.medioevalys.com

Antica Tenuta Capraro

tel. +39 328 9143530

www.anticatenutacapraro.it

Restaurant “Il Canto del Gallo”

tel. +39 338 4494565

Pizzeria “Il Rugantino”

tel. +39 0885 662107

+39 339 8587402

Farmstay “I Grifoni”

tel. +39 366 26 70 298

+39 338 88 97 944

www.agriturismoigrifoni.it

Farmstay “La Faragola”

tel. +39 0885 651428

+39 333 8661111

www.lafaragola.it

WHERE TO SLEEP

Agricultural Co-op “Palazzo Piccolo”

tel. +39 339 4263885

Hotel Restaurant “Aurora”

tel. +39 0885 651274

+39 366 7480402

Antica Tenuta Capraro

tel. +39 328 9143530

www.anticatenutacapraro.it

B&B “Ausculum”

tel. +39 339 4122854

www.bbausculum.it

Boarding House “Medioevalys”

tel. +39 0885 651665

Farmstay “La Faragola”

tel. +39 0885 651428

+39 333 8661111

www.lafaragola.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.ascolisatriano.fg.it

tel. +39 0885 652811

Local Tourist Office:

tel. +39 0885 716132 / +39 337 5380110

www.prolocoascolisatriano.it

Dauni Archaeological Park:

Largo M. Teresa di Lascia, 1

tel. +39 0881 750334 / +39 347 3176098

www.archeologicasrl.com

Museum Hub: Associazione Nostri

Via Santa Maria del Popolo, 68

tel. +39 0885 651756 / +39 338 2328894

polomusealeascolisatriano.blogspot.it

Faragola Archaeological Park:

tel. +39 0881 750334 / +39 347 3176098

www.archeologicasrl.com

PREVIEW





This delightful village is just a stone's throw from **Monte Cornacchia**, the highest peak in Apulia (1,152 m). The views from Biccari, over the valleys and the pristine nature around it, have earned it the nickname "**Little Switzerland**". Enchanting vistas are found at almost every turn with the historic palaces

and architectures of past rulers, including the cylindrical Byzantine tower which reminds us of the village's ancient military role as a look-out. Biccari's origins can be traced to the year 1000 but several archaeological finds suggest that it has been inhabited since the Neolithic period.

WHAT TO SEE



Byzantine tower

This 11th century tower, with its original appearance, features an imposing cylindrical body and reaches 23 metres high.

Chiesa di Maria SS. dell'Assunta

Built in mid-19th century neoclassical architecture, this is a tribute to light, standing out in the village with its three wide, pure white naves. Definitely worth seeing is the "Pietà" by Giovanni Orazio De Luca (1584), the Neapolitan-school fresco, and, underneath the church, in the Crypt chapel, the imposing back of the 1660 San Michele altar.

Chiesa di San Quirico

A church from the late Renaissance that houses 17th century works from the Neapolitan school.

Chiesa dell'Annunziata

A twelfth century building built on rock (clearly visible on the right side of the church), it is home to an altar piece depicting the Annunciation of Mary and frescoes of the four evangelists which decorate the dome.

Ethnographic Museum of peasant culture

Enter a typical peasant's house and discover country life in Biccari through folklore and traditional tools. Discover "agricultural technology" and craftsmen's tools, as well as typical expressions of folk religion.

WHAT TO DO



Pescara Lake

This natural basin at the foot of Toppo Pescara has a visitor's centre and picnic areas. It's an ideal spot to take a *leisurely walk* or to venture into the forest either on foot or on horseback. Well marked *paths* criss-cross the entire Lago Pescara-Monte Cornacchia-Bosco della Cerasa area.

Adventure Park: "Lago Pescara"

Acrobatic paths high above the ground, Tibetan bridges, routes from easy to difficult, and fun for everyone. A different way to experience the wild side of nature in complete safety.

The forests

"*Il Boschetto*" has picnic areas and plenty of room to relax. The "*Cerasa Forest*" has an almost fairytale atmosphere with its wildness and the willows dipping into the streams.



Monte Cornacchia

Open spaces, greenery and breathtaking views are the backdrop to the beautiful stone mountain hut.



NEARBY



Tertiveri archaeological site

The ruins of a tower, clearly visible even from afar, are all that remains of the ancient Byzantine city.

Forestry Nursery

Lovers of the peace and quiet of nature should visit the village of Orto di Zolfo. A protected reforestation area is open to educational visits and scheduled tours.

Convento di Sant'Antonio

White, linear, immersed in pastoral quiet, the Convent built in 1467 contains many precious works, including a canvas of the Nativity and wooden choir stalls from 1924, sculpted by the Master Giuseppe Lucera.

TO TASTE



Mascjuottele – goat cacio-ricotta – is one of the excellent dairy products. And if you like baked delicacies, don't miss the pizza a *furne apierte*. Together with Lucera and Troia, Biccari produces the "*Cacc'e Mmitte*", a red wine made by the "pestimbotte" technique where the wine is put into the cask, without lees, immediately after pressing.

EVENTS



January

Carnival is celebrated here too, together with **Sant'Antonio Abate** and bonfires in his honour (17th January)

August

7th August sees a procession, spectacular fireworks and a celebration in the piazza for the patron saint, San Donato. This devotion started in 1527 when a Biccarese who helped in the sack of Rome brought home a relic of the Saint.

On 12th August, with the **Festa del Borgo Vecchio**, visitors can follow itineraries through the village, to the most charming and fascinating places which also offer typical products, tastings, folklore and exhibitions.

On 22nd August Our Lady of Grace is celebrated in Tertiveri: an incredible farmers' festival.

September

On the third Sunday of the month, Biccari celebrates San Rocco with a traditional religious procession into the evening, when the village shows off with music and fireworks.



WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant "Santa Lucia"

tel. +39 0881 593310

Restaurant "La Baita"

tel. +39 349 5921926

Restaurant "Donna Costanza"

tel. +39 324 8129426

Wine Bar Panama Café

tel. +39 348 9393381

Pizzeria "Molino a Vento"

tel. +39 0881 593310

Farmstead

"Menichella Donato" 

tel. +39 333 1994968

Farmstay - Educational Farm

"Irene"  

tel. +39 0881 595936

cell. +39 349 5760397

Restaurant Pizzeria "Varese"

tel. +39 347 7774977

WHERE TO SLEEP

Hotel "Santa Lucia"

tel. +39 0881 593310

B&B "Villa Angela"

tel. +39 0881 595928

cell. +39 329 3976486

www.bbvillangela.it

B&B "La Collina"

tel. +39 0881 591753

+39 329 4715915

B&B "Caterina"

tel. +39 347 7065865

www.bbcaterina.com

B&B "Il Girasole"

tel. +39 0881 591850

cell. +39 340 4843381

www.ilgirasolebiccari.com

Farmstead

"Menichella Donato" 

tel. +39 333 1994968

Farmstay - Educational Farm

"Irene"  

tel. +39 0881 595936

cell. +39 349 5760397

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.biccari.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 591007

Local Tourist Office: Via Town Hall – cell. +39 349 5741806

"Lago Pescara" Nature Park:

tel. +39 0881 613290 – cell. +39 342 3702028



Due to its enviable position, Bovino has always been a strategic target. That's why the Romans founded the colony of Vibinum here (see the **local museum** for the Roman finds). The Guevara family held it as their fiefdom and the village did well despite the activity of brigands, especially in the **Vallo di Bovino**, which had to be passed if you wanted to cross the

Apennines. Bovino's winding alleyways are utterly delightful and still follow the ancient layout which dates to the reconstruction of the village and defensive walls after the Longobard destruction. It was awarded the *Touring Club's "Orange Flag"* in 2013 and is also one of **"The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy"**.

WHAT TO SEE**The Duke's Castle and Diocesan Museum**

The Norman Drogo had a castle built on an ancient Roman fort, which was rebuilt and expanded several times over the centuries. Of the original layout, only the imposing cylindrical tower and keep remain. A quarter-strike clock from 1749 stands in the courtyard and is the village's symbol. The rooms are richly furnished and the chapel, with ceramic tiled floor, holds a fragment of the sacred Thorn of the Crown of Christ. The Diocesan Museum displays many exquisite items of religious art.

Chiesa di San Pietro

The rare beauty of this church is in the simplicity of its Romanesque style. Built in 1099, it is the oldest church in Bovino and stands on the ruins of a pagan temple. Interestingly, it has a dual style: the exterior is Romanesque-Byzantine, the interior is Baroque.

Cathedral

Construction of this national monument in Apulian Romanesque dates back to the 10th century and features many Byzantine elements in its architecture. It houses precious canvasses, including the *"Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian"*, attributed to Mattia Preti, who studied under Caravaggio.

Cappellone di San Marco

Next to the Cathedral, and originally self-standing, this church features a monumental portal with bas-relief lunette depicting San Marco di Aecae.

Bishop's Palace

Elegant 18th century palace which houses the 10,000-book library and Diocesan archive.

Chiesa del Rosario

Inside this Gothic architectural structure is a beautiful organ from 1740. The portal dates from 1754 and the frieze contains an inscription dated 1205.

Chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie

Also called "Chiesa dei Morti", this is the home of the *Confraternita delle Buona Morte*. An example of neoclassical architecture, it has an elegant travertine façade and is the only church in Bovino to have a crypt, which contains the remains of San Celestino Martire.

Chiesa del Carmine

The building stands out for its beautiful, neoclassical bell tower. It has two levels, with Tuscan order pilasters and corner columns and a Doric entablature crown. Inside the church are rich, stucco decorations and two finely crafted 18th century paintings.

Gaetano Nicastro Town Museum

Bovino's medical doctor, Gaetano Nicastro, started this collection in 1925 and it is worth viewing for the pieces from the neolithic to the Middle Ages, including some priceless prehistoric anthropomorphic stelae.

WHAT TO DO



A walk through the Borgo Antico

Wander through Bovino, admire the beautiful stone portals and discover unexpected sights and views.

A walk in the Town Villa.

The park in the heart of the village is a beautiful green space that offers peace and shade, especially on hot summer days.

Valleverde

Valleverde has picnic facilities and is perfect for outings or days immersed in nature.

Bourbon Fountain and Posta del Ponte

Cross the Bovino Bridge to find this fine example of a monumental fountain, in front of the old Post Office.

The Ancient Mill

A fine water mill on the Cervaro stream at Ponte.

Paths

If you like active environmental tourism, take a walk on the road to Pietrapanni. Three kilometres of natural beauty await you, whether you're on foot or mountain bike.

The Educational Farmsteads

The **Masseria Morra** has lots to offer including workshops on aromatic herbs, cereal and dairy production. Tel. +39 0881 966209
Cell. +39 346 7291568 / +39 340 618816

Just as fascinating is the **Masseria Salecchia** which offers workshops on jam making, flour processing, and excursions into the forest ecosystem. There is even a playground and adventure park for the younger visitors.

Tel. +39 340 7745309 – +39 345 6434437
www.masseriasalecchia.it

NEARBY



Santuario della Madonna di Valleverde

In 1266, according to the story, there was an Apparition and then a building was raised in the 13th century. Destroyed in the 1930 earthquake, it was rebuilt (hence the modern architecture) thanks to the devotion of the pilgrims.

Roman aqueduct

Incredible ruins on the SP 121 Provincial Road from Bovino to Panni.

Casalene archaeological site

Discover a Roman villa a few kilometres from the village.

Pork soffritto challenge

Pork is the star of the show. Organised by the *Slow Food* movement and local groups, learn how pork used to be processed, participate in "peasant breakfasts" and try prosciutti, salami, coppa, sausages, as well as the "rarer" capicollo and black pudding. The event takes place in March and is an opportunity to look at pork from a cultural, food and agro-industrial point of view.

EVENTS



August

Bovino hosts the **Independent Short Film Festival** on the third week of the month. Independent short films from all over the world are screened and awarded prizes. The **Festa Popolare nel Borgo Antico**, takes place during the event and includes typical products such as **Sagra di Cruskele, Pizz Fritt and recchiètelle**.

The atmosphere is supercharged with history on 29th August with the **Historical Cavalcade**: local people dress up in and re-enact the Bovinesi veneration for the Virgin through long centuries of history, following her statue from the Shrine to the Cathedral.

October

The **Chestnut and Autumn Flavours festival** takes place on the Second Saturday in October.



The old village of Bovino

WHERE TO EAT

Farmstead

“Piana delle Mandrie” 

tel. +39 389 7897956

Restaurant “La Cantina” 

tel. +39 389 7897956

+39 0881 961849

Restaurant Pizzeria

“La Taverna del Duca” 

tel. +39 0881 966326

+39 380 7814223

Farmstay “Tenuta Capaccio” 

tel. +39 0881 961739

+39 340 2600484

www.tenutacapaccio.com

Pizzeria “Da Francuccio”

tel. +39 335 5407381

Farmstay “Salecchia” -

Fattoria Didattica e Sociale 

tel. +39 340 7745309

+39 345 6434437

www.masseriasalecchia.it 

Tavern

“Ndo’Save’rie Lu Conte”

tel. +39 333 2202845

Trattoria “Da Tonino al Ponte”

tel. +39 0881 961465

Restaurant Pizzeria “Dizzy” 

tel. +39 380 633 4256

Pub “Highlander” 

tel. +39 0881 961212

Pub “New Tullamore”

tel. +39 0881 961058

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B “Dormire nel Borgo” 

tel. +39 347 5924792

Residence “Ducale” 

tel. +39 0881 912015

+39 328 8427433

www.residenzaducale.it

Farmstay “Tenuta Capaccio” 

tel. +39 0881 961739

+39 340 2600484

www.tenutacapaccio.com

Residence “sulla Roccia”  

tel. +39 328 6677228

Boarding House

“Camera a Sud”  

tel. +39 0881 961205

+39 347 4895141

www.cameraasudbovino.it

Farmstead “Antica Colombaia”

tel. +39 335 7425913

Farmstay “Salecchia” -

Fattoria Didattica e Sociale 

tel. +39 340 7745309

www.masseriasalecchia.it 

B&B “La Casa del Borgo”

tel. +39 347 5924792

lacasadelborgo.freshcreator.com

B&B “La Casetta di Nonna

Carmela” 

tel. +39 347 6055132

The “Pietre del Borgo” are:

Palazzo “San Procopio”  

Wellness Centre

Residence “Le Ginestre” 

Residence “Lastene” 

Residence “dei Reali”  

tel. +39 0881 961926

www.lepietredelborgo.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.bovino.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 966711

Local Tourist Office: tel. +39 0881 966475 / +39 333 8391890

www.prolocobovino.it

Museo Diocesano Castello di Bovino:

tel. +39 0881 912015 / +39 328 8427433

www.museodiocesano.bovino.it

PREVIEW





Candela lies between the Ofanto and Carapelle rivers. Its narrow alleyways climb up and open out onto delightful views. Visiting Candela means breathing clean air, tasting typical dishes, and touching the village's history and culture. Its architecture and palazzos tell of the centuries of rule and the history of ancient

families. Thanks to its geographical position, on the border of three regions, commerce and crafts flourished in Candela, helped further by the local sheep farming and the number of sheep trails. The **Regio Tratturo Pescasseroli Candela** sheep trail actually ends here and can be used as a natural itinerary for a pleasant stroll.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa di Santa Maria della Purificazione

The Chiesa Madre stands in piazza Plebiscito and dates to the 16th century. The Renaissance exterior includes a fine portal surmounted by a pediment decorated with a depiction of the Virgin. Step inside to view the baptismal font (dated 1590), 15th century wooden choir stalls, frescoes and the Statue of the Madonna della Candelora.

Chiesa di San Tommaso

Built in 1107 in a Romanesque style, the interior is almost completely frescoed. It houses a canvas oil painting depicting Saint Thomas, and various wooden statues, most notably that of the Grieving Virgin Mary.

Palazzo Ripandelli

Art, history and a laboratory for the future: the wonderful Palazzo Ripandelli is a lively cultural hub in the heart of Candela.

Arco della Madonna o della Candelora

Take the street leading to the village's highest point to find the Arco della Madonna and the mosaic of the Vergine della Purificazione. On the span of the arch: "the devotion of the people".

Palazzo Doria

Palazzo Doria is an important three-storey aristocratic

building, dated July 1607 (thanks to the inscription underneath the elegant Renaissance portico). The interior still has the original 17th century wood-coffered ceilings.

The Trasonne

Among the village streets, look out for the small passages and alleyways called "trasonne", which suddenly open out onto open spaces and squares.

NEARBY



Fontana vecchia

One kilometre from the village, this old fountain and its picnic area offer a delightful setting to relax.

Petra Longa

If you take the road to Rocchetta Sant'Antonio, you will come across something that your eyes will hardly believe. Unique, almost unreal, this rock – Petra Longa – protrudes from the farmed land around it.



WHAT TO DO



A walk through the Borgo antico

The historic centre of Candela reminds us of its noble past. Wander through the narrow streets and discover details that will transport you to another age. The Cittadella area is not to be missed, with its churches and palazzos, and the many precious details: arches, portals and delightful courtyards. The pure white stone used to build the borgo (village) lends a dream-like quality, especially in the evening.

TRIVIA



Regio Tratturo Pescasseroli – Candela

The “via d'erba” is one of the oldest streets in Italy. For centuries it has witnessed transhumance. At the start of the cold season, shepherds from Abruzzo and Molise would bring their herds to the plains of Apulia. The Sheep Trail played a vital role in trade (in cheese, milk, wool and hide) as well as a role in cultural exchange. The start is near Campomiz- zo (Pescasseroli) in Abruzzo, it crosses Molise and Campania, and ends, after about 211 kilometres, at Pozzo di S. Mercurio near Candela.



Detail of vaulted ceiling, Palazzo Ripandelli

EVENTS



June

On the first Sunday in June, scents and colours are displayed with **Candela in Fiore**, the event creating a magnificent stage for flowers.

The **Sagra dell'Asparago** celebrates the asparagus in a multitude of forms on the second Sunday of the month.

August

Around 10th August, Candela celebrates one of the most famous dishes from the whole of Apulia with the **Sagra dell'Orecchietta**.

On 14th August, traditions and flavours abound with **GustaCandela**: a gastronomic journey to excellent local foods.

Candela celebrates **San Rocco** with a range of activities, shows, events and entertainment from 16th-18th August.

December

On 7th-8th December, the **Christmas Market** also provides the opportunity to enjoy locally produced apples.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant “L'Orecchietta”  Restaurant “La Rosa dei Venti”

tel. +39 0885 653877

tel. +39 0885 656244

+39 338 4974909

+39 347 6254823

www.orecchietta.it

www.larosadeiventiristorante.it 

Pizzeria “Nap'licchie” 

Restaurant Pizzeria

tel. +39 0885 653235

“La Carnaleta” 

tel. +39 0885 653985

WHERE TO SLEEP

Boarding House

B&B “Villa Genny” 

“A Casa Nostra”  

tel. +39 0885 653267

tel. +39 0885 653507

+39 331 2367655

+39 335 1572312

www.villagenny.com

www.acasanostracandela.it

Albergo “La Rosa dei Venti” 

Albergo “L'Orecchietta” 

tel. +39 0885 656244

tel. +39 0885 653877

+39 347 6254823

+39 338 4974909

www.larosadeiventiristorante.it

www.orecchietta.it

B&B “Candela”

tel. +39 331 7576309

www.bebcandela.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.candela.fg.it

tel. +39 0885 653102



Carlantino, offering visitors a relaxing mix of history and culture, is also the ideal village to immerse yourself in the peace of nature. It lies on the border with Molise, on a hill that overlooks the Fortore Valley and the stunning **Occhito Dam**. Beyond ancient, items

from the 1st century BC and even the prehistoric age have been found nearby. Furthermore, some research suggests that the epic battle of the Second Punic War between the Romans and the Carthaginians, known as the Battle of Cannae, took place very near Carlantino.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa di San Donato

Built around the end of the 16th century at the behest of Prince Carlo Gambacorta, the Church was altered and expanded in the 17th century. Of particular note is the altar piece depicting the Madonna in mannerist style.

Cappella SS. Annunziata

Built in 1526, it houses an ancient canvas of the Madonna and Child, a wooden statue of the Madonna del Carmine from the 15th century, and a pipe organ from the 1800s. The fascinating foundations of the former chapel can be seen through a glass floor panel.

Town Archaeological Museum

The local museum houses a number of items from nearby excavations. The heritage on display covers the Neolithic to the Middle Ages. The archaeological finds from Monte San Giovanni and Santo Venditti are well worth seeing.

NEARBY



Archaeological sites at Monte San Giovanni and Santo Venditto

Monte San Giovanni has become an important archaeological site, yielding both prehistoric and Roman finds. The remains of boundary walls and what seems to have been an ironmongery furnace are remarkable. An important Sannite necropolis has been discovered near Santo Venditto, which, as yet, cannot be visited, where as many as 33 graves have been unearthed.

WHAT TO DO



Occhito Dam

Near the Occhito Dam, with a picnic area and playground, is the Alcedo Visitors Centre, managed by the Associazione Araba Fenice. Discover all the secrets of the dam and take environmental education paths with your children to learn more about water, its use and its importance. In addition to pleasant hiking trails, there is a health path – an educational itinerary with panels describing the local flora and fauna.

Sport on the Occhito dam

The artificial dam built on the river Fortore is superb for angling enthusiasts. Fishing, for safety reasons, is not allowed near the dam. Also available are stunningly beautiful landscapes, for walks or bicycle rides.

TO TASTE



Carlantino's special connection with shepherding and transhumance is celebrated with the Festa della Madonna della Ricotta. Dairy products are, perhaps unsurprisingly, in abundance and exquisite: as well as ricotta there are primosale, cacioricotta and mozzarella. Not to overlook, however, are the excellent extra virgin olive oil, local bread, biscuits, sausages and pickles.



Chiesa SS Annunziata. Above: View of the Occhito lake

EVENTS



January

On 17th January, Carlantino is lit up with **bonfires for Sant'Antonio Abate**.

May

The **Madonna dell'Annunziata** is celebrated on the last Sunday of the month. Also known as the "*Festa della Ricotta*", Carlantino shepherds commemorate the ancient votive tradition of transhumants and make ricotta with freshly milked milk.

August

Honouring the **patron saint San Donato**, takes place on 6th, 7th and 8th August, a time when the streets are filled with music from the local brass band as well as small ensembles offering an unforgettable evening's entertainment.

WHERE TO EAT..... WHERE TO SLEEP.....

Bar "La dolce vita"

tel. +39 328 8086235

Boarding House "Rachele"

tel. +39 0881 552314

+39 331 1563871

CONTACTS.....

Town Hall: www.comune.carlantino.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 552224

Archaeological Museum: Corso Europa, 88

tel. +39 0881 552224 *Open by booking*

Archaeoclub: *For guided visits to the Archaeological Museum and to the Monte San Giovanni Site* – cell. +39 339 3713970

Associazione Araba Fenice:

tel. +39 339 6024467 / +39 338 6340289

www.lagodiocchito.it



If you're looking for a village in natural setting, delightful streams, peace and tranquillity, then you're looking for Casalnuovo Monterotaro. With many green areas, and home to a rich variety of fauna (to discover through guided visits to the forests), ancient and humble farmsteads, Casalnuovo Monterotaro developed

in the shadow of the ancient **Monterotaro Abbey**, of which, today, only the ruins of a Longobard tower remain. Destroyed by the Swabians after a rebellion attempt, the village has been ravaged by earthquakes that have left only a few reminders of its historical and architectural heritage.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa di Santa Maria della Rocca

Built in 1656, as a prayer to banish the plague, the church has six side chapels, marble altars, art canvas paintings and an organ from 1746.

Parish Museum

The local museum has an interesting collection of habits and vestments, some which belonged to Cardinal Pietro Parente.

Chiesa dei SS. Pietro e San Nicolò

Most likely erected in the 16th century, it was severely damaged by the 1805 earthquake and has undergone continuous restoration since 1930.

Bourbon Fountain

This fine fountain, perfectly preserved, dates to 1834 and consists of a stone niche, topped by a gable bearing an exhortation to its use.

WHAT TO DO



Colle Bettino Lipu Oasis

Run by the Italian Society for the Protection of Birds, you can watch many species of wild fauna and birds of prey, including the red kite. Thanks to Lipu of Foggia, organised excursions are arranged.

NEARBY



Monterotaro and Tower

Sections of the village's boundary walls and a square, Longobard tower, which may have been the abbey's bell tower, are still visible today.

Caccetta Fountain

Immersed in an oak forest just four kilometres from the village, along the road to Colletorto (CB), is this fine fountain, which was probably part of a Roman complex.

EVENTS



May

On the second Sunday in May, a solemn procession takes the statue of the Virgin to Monterotaro: this is the **Festa di Maria Santissima di Monterotaro**.

June

On 13th and 14th June, devotion turns to festivities to celebrate **Sant'Antonio of Padua**. A procession of children, wearing the Franciscan habit (the "monachell"), and the distribution of blessed bread is not to be missed. Events reach their peak with the **Sagra del Pane**, the Bread Festival, and the **vintage car and motorbike rally**.

August

In Caccetta, near the ancient water spring, the Local Tourist Office organises the **Festa della Caccetta**, an evening with games and dancing under the stars, all



Chiesa di Santa Maria della Rocca

complemented by local dishes. 10th-12th August normally sees the traditional **Sagra del Cinghiale** (the wild boar festival), the **Festa dell'Accoglienza** (the welcome festival) and the **Sagra dell'Acquasale** (the festival of the traditional toasted bread and tomato dish).

Celebrating the **Maria SS. della Rocca** originates from a legend about the Virgin's wish to see a church dedicat-

ed to her in the area. On the 15th and 16th, the village hosts a procession, evening events and fireworks.

October

The **Festa della Madonna del Rosario** is celebrated every first weekend in October. The village welcomes farmers who bring their animals and work tools to receive the blessing.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant Pizzeria

“da Pasqualina”

tel. +39 0881 558794

Bar “Oasi”

tel. +39 0881 558699

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B “Nonna Titti” 

tel. +39 360 444703

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.casalnuovomonterotaro.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 558183

Local Tourist Office:

tel. +39 380 4308387 / +39 333 3164077

www.prolococasalnuovomonterotaro.net



Casalvecchio di Puglia was founded around the 11th century and its history has been punctuated by alternating fortune. An Albanian community settled here in the 15th century and this explains the special dialect spoken, rich in Albanian influences that are apparent in the bilingual signposts and folklore traditions.

This feature makes Casalvecchio, together with Faeto and Celle San Vito, one of the linguistic islands in the Foggia province. The village offers visitors the wholesomeness and rich flavours of its local culinary tradition, and the right balance between spectacular nature and the ancient urban architecture.

WHAT TO SEE



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Built in the 16th century and consecrated in 1713, it was rebuilt after an earthquake in the 1800s. It houses a fine 18th century painting of the Madonna del Carmelo.

Chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie

This well-proportioned, modern church dedicated to Our Lady was built, according to legend, following the discovery of an image of the Virgin.

Well of the Madonna

As legend would have it, the well in Via Filzi contained miraculous water which could heal a range of skin afflictions. The well dried up though when a hunter dipped his dog in it to cure it of mange. When the well dried up it revealed a small depiction of the Holy Virgin and Baby Jesus, an icon that immediately became a sacred symbol of devotion.

NEARBY



Torre dei Briganti

The remains of a round-based, Medieval watchtower provide the opportunity to enjoy a wander outside the village.

Casone della Sgurgola

The "Casone della Sgurgola" medieval tower, with its square base and battlements, is a very fine and very well-preserved example and is easily seen on the road between Casalvecchio and Torremaggiore.

TO TASTE



Casalvecchio has truly excellent pasta, made by the local pasta factory in all the traditional shapes (including **grano arso**, charred wheat).

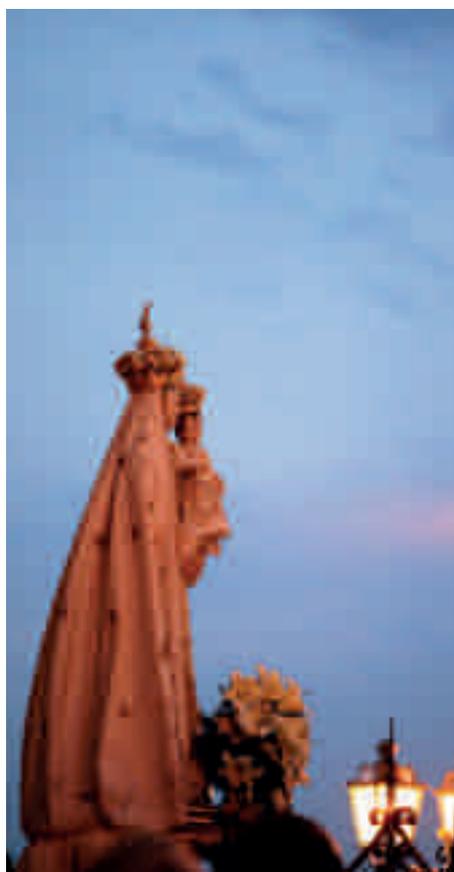


TRIVIA



The Condottiere and the Lady Brigand – An Albanian community probably settled in Casalvecchio thanks to George Kastrioti Skanderbeg, the great Albanian leader who curbed the Turkish advance in Albania and was an ally to the Aragonese in the war against the Angevins for the throne of Naples.

It appears that Filomena Pennacchio was born in Casalvecchio di Puglia in 1845. After killing her abusive husband, she sought refuge in the forests of Lucera. Here she met the bandit Giuseppe Schiavone, and became one of the most famous women brigands.



Top: Festival of Santa Maria delle Grazie Previous page: Torre dei Briganti

EVENTS



March

On 19th March, the village hosts the **Fuochi di San Giuseppe**, a festival held around the heat of the bonfires in the streets, where folk songs are sung and traditional dishes savoured.

April

With **Easter Eggs** (*Vete e Pashqet*) a popular tradition is renewed every Holy Saturday: young people knock on doors and sing "*Vete e Pashqet*" to be rewarded with Easter eggs.

May

On the third Sunday of the month, the **Festival of Santa Maria delle Grazie** celebrates a cult that dates back to the village's foundation by Albanians, devoted to the image of Mary in the Basilian Monastery of San Matteo di Scurgola.

September

The **Fiera di San Matteo** takes place on the last Sunday in September.

WHERE TO EAT

Pub Pizzeria Mango 

tel. +39 338 5600757

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.casalvecchiodipuglia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 553018

Local Tourist Office: Via Giuseppe Di Vagno

prolococasalvecchio@gmail.com



Castelluccio dei Sauri stands like a bulwark on the fertile hills between the Cervaro and the Carapelle. The origins of the village are extremely old, given the numerous archaeological finds in the area and the village (Oppidum) with beneficial waters, mentioned in Horatius' Fifth Satire, may have been located here. The primeval urban settlement grew under several rulers and

took on its current name in the Byzantine period. But Castelluccio's appearance to present-day visitors is young and modern, due to the earthquakes that forced its inhabitants to redesign and rebuild it. Despite its size, the village is an important centre for sport, especially horse racing thanks to the new **hippodrome** which has made the village famous and attracts fans from across Italy.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa Madre del SS. Salvatore

A pure white, strict 18th century building, erected on the ruins of the church of San Giorgio.

Cappella di San Gerardo

A quaint, well-looked after chapel consecrated to a Saint much loved by the castelluccesi.

Viale degli Innamorati (the lovers' street)

A romantic tree-lined street. Perfect for a stroll with your companion.

Apulian aqueduct water tower

It might seem strange but this water turret in an unusual pink colour is fascinating.

WHAT TO DO



A day at the hippodrome

Passion, sport and entertainment. The Castelluccio dei Sauri hippodrome assures visitors a thrilling, out-of-the-ordinary day.

NEARBY



Sterparo

An archaeological site where a number of wonderful anthropomorphic stelae and items of historical-artistic value have been found, dating to the copper age. Most of these finds can be admired in the Bovino and Foggia museums.

Lamie and Hannibal's Well

This important archaeological area, with vast ruins, contains a Roman settlement and includes the remains of a well that was built by Hannibal's army as they passed through.

TO TASTE



Organic farming and traditional methods produce an excellent wheat pasta, most notably the "cingoli", a sort of fusilli, traditionally seasoned with tomato and toasted bread crumbs. Many more farm-produced specialities, made by small, family-run businesses, and which make perfect souvenirs include extra virgin olive oil, scaldatelli and the taralli, home-made biscuits.



Cross Monumento

EVENTS



March

The tradition of the **San Giuseppe bonfires** (19th March), even after centuries, is still observed.

August

Marguttiana d'arte is the exhibition that takes place

on the 3rd in the Piazza dedicated to Our Lady of Grace. On 5th, 6th and 7th August, the patron saint, **San Salvatore**, is celebrated with a procession accompanied by the local brass band. The first day of the celebrations includes the **Wine festival**, with fine food.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant Pizzeria

"Antichi Merletti"

tel. +39 0881 962197

+39 348 1218164

www.anticimerletti.it

Pub "The Moon Light" 

tel. +39 338 1309657

Farmstay

"Villa Tierra Nueva"  

tel. +39 331 3192060

Braceria "La Casetta di Pilù"

tel. +39 349 1466235

Restaurant "Al Vecchio Casale"

tel. +39 0881 962545

Restaurant Pizzeria

"Antichi Saporì"

tel. +39 339 6294507

www.anticisaporifg.com

WHERE TO SLEEP

Boarding House

"Antichi Merletti"

tel. +39 0881 962197

+39 348 1218164

www.anticimerletti.it

Hotel Restaurant "Agorà" 

tel. +39 0881 962636

+39 368 308519

www.agora-hotel.it

B&B di Maria Pia Vitale 

tel. +39 349 1466235

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.castellucciodeisauri.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 962021 info@comune.castellucciodeisauri.fg.it

Local Tourist Office: Piazza Municipio, 3

Hippodrome: Contrada Lamie – tel. +39 0881 962631

www.ippodromodeisauri.it



An outpost for those who want to reach the Monti Dauni peaks from the plateau, Castelluccio Valmaggiore is one of the most important villages in the **Celone Valley**. It lies at the foot of **Monte Cornacchia** and overlooks the entire valley separating it from Troia. The village's origins date to when the Byzantines

ruled over Daunia in the 11th century. It used to have three gates: *Porta del Pozzo*, *Arco Sotto le Mura* and *Arco via Gradelle*. With its healthy, temperate climate, and its forests of oak and elm, Castelluccio Valmaggiore is the best choice for those who want to escape the bustle and heat of the city and spend a holiday in touch with nature.

WHAT TO SEE



Byzantine Tower

The wide Byzantine tower is the oldest building in Castelluccio Valmaggiore. Once used as an observation point over the via Traiana, today it is a multimedia "Meta Museum" on battles.

The Public wash tub

Commonly called "*il Piscero*", this wash tub in the centre of the village features a cross vault built in 1927. According to tradition, a visitor can only be considered a Castelluccese after drinking its cold water.

The Arches

When walking through the old alleyways, admire the many architectural elements from the village's fascinating past. The arches are particularly noteworthy: Via Gradelle, Via Osteria (Porta Pozzo) and Via Sisto.

The Palaces

Wander the streets of Castelluccio Valmaggiore to discover fine buildings, such as Palazzo Nobiliare Paoella and Palazzo del Conte.

The Fountain in Via Salita Torre

This beautiful fountain with a brick façade divided into three areas by little columns was built at the end of the 19th century.

WHAT TO DO



Forest of Petrerà

A wide forested area at the edge of the village offers trekking, mountain biking and horse riding. Wide paths through the Aleppo pines make for pleasant walks and you can take a rest in the shaded picnic areas. Not to miss are the "*ponte del freddo*", the arched stone bridge, the Celone stream with its water mills and the hills climbing to Monte Cornacchia.

Archeo Trekking

In Lamia, visit the areas where terracotta fragments, weapons, coins and tombs dating to the time of the Second Punic War were unearthed.

Apulia Frassati Path

The fine path dedicated to Pier Giorgio Frassati traces a ring around Monte Cornacchia and passes by Castelluccio Valmaggiore. The section between Castelluccio and Celle San Vito is 3.3 kilometres long and takes about an hour.

The Valle Maggioro

Crossed by the Freddo and Celone rivers, the widest Valley of Monti Dauni joins the highest mountain in Apulia (Monte Cornacchia) to the plateau: a sheep trail makes the hike easy and the east side of Monte Silone offers an incredible lookout at 950m.



Public wash tub

TRIVIA



It might be the healthy air, or the wholesome food, or even the mild, pleasant manners of the people, but the fact is that Castelluccio Valmaggiore holds an impressive record: the longevity of its inhabitants.

EVENTS



March

On 19th March, **San Giuseppe** is honoured by bonfires throughout the village.

June

On 24th and 25th June, the village celebrates **San Giovanni Battista** with an evening of events and fireworks.

August

The second Saturday of the month sees the **traditional home-made pasta festival**.

On 16th a procession honours **San Rocco** as part of a religious festival that includes evening events.

Around mid-August the **Festa della Fratellanza "Taralluzze e Vine"** fills the streets with fun and flavours.

December

Towards Christmas Castelluccio awaits you with the **Sagra delle pettole** (fritters).

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant Pizzeria

"La Torre Antica"

tel. +39 0881 972715

Restaurant Pizzeria

"L'Oasi Rosa"

tel. +39 0881 972117

Trattoria Pizzeria **"La Pineta"**

tel. +39 380 6411091

Risto-Pub "15/3"

tel. +39 339 8700154

+39 329 8052632

Restaurant Rotisserie

"Little Italy"

tel. +39 330 400154

WHERE TO SLEEP

Hotel **"Lucia"**

tel. +39 0881 972185

B&B "Petruzzelli"

tel. +39 0881 972683

+39 345 1545756

www.bbpetruzzelli.wordpress.com

B&B "Nonna Lucia"

tel. +39 330 400154

www.bebnonnalucia.it

Boarding House

"Palazzo del Conte"

tel. +39 389 1350530

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.

castellucciovalmaggiore.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 972015

Local Tourist Office:

Piazzale Rocco Campanaro

tel. +39 0881 972015



Castelnuovo della Daunia seems to have come from a fairytale, with its pointed roofs that appear to entangle themselves around the bell tower of the chiesa matrice. The village, called “**Castrum Sclavorum**” many years ago because it was founded by people from the Illyrian province of Slavonia, is small by extension and

population, but contains fine artistic and architectural examples. Castelnuovo is part of that constellation of small villages that dot the **Fortore Valley**, each on its own little hill, and it has a wealth of water springs. Sulphur water, with beneficial properties, has led to a **spa centre** being set up, with sports facilities and conference room.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa di Santa Maria Maddalena and Convento dei Frati Minori

The 16th century building is especially striking for its fine carved stone Romanesque portal, rescued from the convent of San Matteo in Scurgola. Inside are beautiful 17th and 18th century canvas paintings, an organ from 1703 and a wooden statue of the Immaculate Conception from 1763. The fine 16th century cloister is definitely worth a visit.

Palazzo Romano

This fine building houses the Ecclesiastical Museum, with an exhibition of religious vestments and furnishings, a library and, soon, the Peasant Culture Museum.

Chiesa San Nicola

Of uncertain origin, the building has a somewhat Oriental appearance. It houses the wooden statue of the Madonna Addolorata and a canvas painting of the Saints Biagio, Nicola and Antonio Abate.

Castle

Turning from the Chiesa Madre and look at the Town Hall, built on the ruins of a castle.

Chiesa Matrice Maria SS. della Murgia

Built around the end of the 12th century, it contains fine sculptural and pictorial works, among which is the

magnificent stone ciborium (1532), the organ (1600), the opulent stuccoes in the chapel and 16th and 18th century canvas paintings.

Chiesa di Maria SS. Incoronata

Built in 1703, it houses two magnificent altar pieces from the early 18th century and the wooden statue of the Madonna, probably by the sculptor Di Zinno.

WHAT TO DO



La Cappellina Pine Forest

In Molino A Vento, relax in the cool and verdant pine forest and enjoy the picnic facilities.

Spa centre

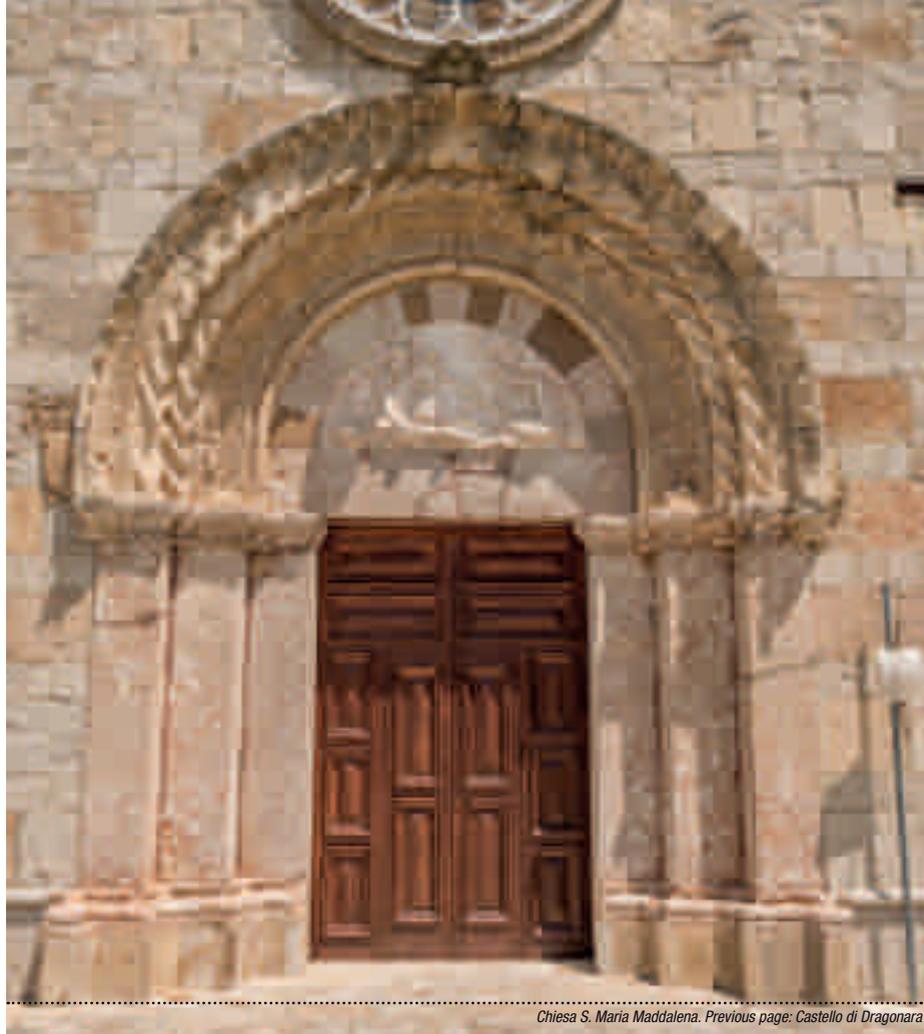
Thanks to the therapeutic properties of the sulphur water springs, a modern spa centre has been set up. The facility includes inhalation systems, hydroponic treatments, mud baths, a fitness centre, a beauty farm and a swimming pool.

NEARBY



Castello di Dragonara

Only the castle remains of the Byzantine Dragonara, on the border with Molise. Transformed and rebuilt several times over the centuries until it became a farmstead, the building has a rectangular base, an inner courtyard, two cylindrical towers and two square ones. Next to it are the ruins of a circular tower.



Chiesa S. Maria Maddalena. Previous page: Castello di Dragonara

EVENTS



August

The **Bread and tomato festival** is on 3rd August. On the 6th, celebrations continue with the **Sagra dei fritti**, while on the second Sunday in August the **Sagra delle Zanchette** is held – typical local pasta, diamond shaped and topped with garlic chilli pepper, rocket and caciocotta, with music and entertainment. On the 16th, huge tables fill the streets for **Castelnuovo in tavola**, with music and dancing.

December

The **Live Nativity**, usually on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year, is very evocative.

WHERE TO EAT..... WHERE TO SLEEP.....

Hotel Restaurant “Le Terrazze”

tel. +39 0881 559612

www.leterrazzehotel.com

Restaurant “Il Cenacolo”

tel. +39 0881 559587

Restaurant delle Terme

tel. +39 0881 559766

+39 348 8007949

Hotel Restaurant “Le Terrazze”

tel. +39 0881 559612

www.leterrazzehotel.com

B&B House Di Caputo

tel. +39 338 8541309

CONTACTS.....

Town Hall: www.comune.castelnuovodelladaunia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 511211

Local Tourist Office: Via Garibaldi, 2 - tel. +39 328 1433066

Castelnuovo della Daunia spa centre:

tel. +39 0881 559766 - www.termicastelnuovo.it



Celenza Valfortore stretches along a hillock overlooking the **Fortore valley**, now flooded by the **Occhito artificial reservoir**. The original Greek dwelling was founded - according to legend - by *Diomedes*. In 275 BC, it was destroyed by the Romans during the *Samnite Wars* and the survivors sought refuge on

the hill, giving rise to *Celentia*. The medieval village has been extremely well preserved and is dominated by the crenellated tower of the baronial palace. At every step, the narrow streets reveal picturesque corners and open spaces, finely carved portals, fountains, monasteries and historical palaces.

WHAT TO SEE



Baronial Palace (or Castle)

Built between the 15th and 16th century by the Gambacorta, the palace has a crenellated tower and three loggias. Now in private hands, it can only be admired from the outside.

Saint Nicholas Church and Monastery

Built in the 17th century on the orders of the Marquis of Celenza, Andrea Gambacorta, the church is part of the monastery of the same name. It contains an important canvas dated 1759 of the Coronation of the Holy Virgin. Don't miss the former mills which today house a multimedia visitors' centre.

The Gates

The ancient entrances to the "Celenna" deserve more than a quick glance: *Porta Nova*, or in dialect "cautone" (large opening), features the Gambacorta coat of arms on the stone archivolt. Beyond it is a fine vantage point that offers spectacular views of the Occhito Lake. On the *Porta San Nicola* look out for the sculpted hand gripping a dagger. Near the Castle is the *Portella*, also called *sup-porcito*, and the *Porta Carlina* gate.

Chiesa di S. Croce (or Chiesa Madre)

The church was rebuilt in 1569 over a previous building and features a rose window in typical Abruzzo Romanesque style. Inside are canvasses depicting the Assumption and San Giorgio, and various wooden sculptures.

Chiesa di San Michele

This 17th century building, erected following the end of the bubonic plague, holds the fine wooden statue of San Michele with silver helmet, sword and shield.

Chiesa San Francesco

Dating to the early 18th century, the building is next to the *Convento dei Frati Minori*. The exterior has a fine stone portal whilst insider are three wooden statues depicting San Antonio, San Pasquale Baylon and the Madonna.

Town Antiquarium Archaeological Museum

Archaeological finds from the neolithic age to the late Roman age are displayed in the cloister of the *Monastero di San Nicola*, where you can also find the *Cippo Graccano*, a Gracchus-age centuriation stone showing how the Romans divided the land in the Fortore Valley.

WHAT TO DO



Celenza Forests

The Celenza forests cover a wide area. They were once dotted with farmsteads and monasteries and formed the stage for brigands. The woods are criss-crossed by many paths and at "Casone lamele", you can visit the "Centre of wild game acclimatisation and restocking".

Contrada Minconga

With picnic facilities, enjoy the water springs and lush vegetation.



Castello Gambacorta

TRIVIA



Il Titta – Giambattista Varanelli, from Celenza Valfortore cowherd to brigand, leading 100 “insurgents” under the nickname “Titta”. In the 1860s, he led all manner of raids through the Monti Dauni, Irpinia

and Molise. The Guardia Mobile (mounted guard) of San Marco La Catola finally captured the dreaded brigand after a violent clash and he was executed by firing squad.

NEARBY



Santuario Santa Madonna delle Grazie

A short distance from the village, immersed in a tranquil setting, is the 18th century building that houses the wooden statue of the Madonna delle Grazie, attributed to Di Zinno.

EVENTS



July

On 2nd July, the **Madonna delle Grazie** is celebrated and the village puts on a procession and hosts the **Fritata Festival** in the evening.

August

From 11th to 13th August is the **Palio delle Contrade**. This very popular event pits two parts of the village (Torre and Convento) against each other, challenging them to make the best sausage-based dishes.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant Pizzeria

“Cannavino”

tel. +39 0881 554667

Relais San Pietro Puglia

tel. +39 0881 554932

+39 339 2344997

www.relais-celenza.it

Restaurant Pizzeria Oasi Verde

tel. +39 0881 554585

+39 338 3267558

Farmstay “Maniero Cerulli”

tel. +39 0881 554202

+39 339 7719781

www.manierocerulli.it

WHERE TO SLEEP

Relais San Pietro Puglia

tel. +39 0881 554932

+39 339 2344997

www.relais-celenza.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.celenzavalfortore.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 554016

Local Tourist Office:

Via C. Rossi, 43

tel. +39 320 9450925

“Casone lamele” Visitor Centre:

tel. +39 0881 791765

+39 335 7128255



On mount San Vito, some monks built a small hermitage, a safe haven for pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land. The village takes its name from the cells. The Franco-Provençal cultural and linguistic tradition started in the 1200s, when a Provençal colony was started by former Angevin soldiers. The village represents an important, attractive

*crossroads of the Dauni of the southern **Via Francigena**: Celle San Vito is the smallest municipality in Apulia (165 inhabitants) and, together with Faeto, is the only place where **Franco-Provençal** is spoken. An exceedingly pretty village, hugging the ridge of a hill, it is surrounded by lush forests, sweet-scented orchards and a number of springs.*

WHAT TO SEE



Town centre

The historic centre of Celle San Vito will delight you with its alleyways squashed between exposed stone houses. The Franco-Provençal street names on the decorated ceramic tiles add to the village's appeal.

The lookouts

Looking from Celle, you'll have breathtaking views of the Celone valley. But don't forget to look inward too: there's a beautiful well in a small square towards the mountains, in the west of the village.

Chiesa Santa Caterina

This church, with its pretty façade is one of the most important buildings in the village and dates to the 19th century. The marble altar inside is surmounted by an exquisite, life-size wooden crucifix.

The Fountain with public wash tubs

Cold, clear water gushes from the fountain and into the public wash tubs, once a place where women would come to wash clothes and catch up on the local gossip.

Provençal Arch

The old entrance to the village, consisting of two rounded stone portals

WHAT TO DO



Celle San Vito Forest

A number of paths let you explore the area, rich in forests, private areas and farmhouses, on foot, by bike or on horseback. An equipped trail allows hiking enthusiasts to reach nearby Faeto or to go down to Castelluccio Valmaggiore.

TRIVIA



Bilingualism – The municipality of Celle San Vito, together with nearby Faeto, represents the so-called Daunia arpitana, the only Franco-Provençal linguistic island in Italy. The language originated on the French side of the Alps and although there is documentary use of it from 1566, it probably dates to the 13th century and the Angevin forays. Use of Franco-Provençal remained strong even into the early 20th century, indeed some inhabitants were monolingual, and in 1999, the State officially recognised and protected this linguistic minority. And so the Language Offices of Celle and Faeto were set up to safeguard and protect this heritage. Over the last few years, research and meetings have led to the publication of a brochure, the "Franco-Provençal Project" and a calendar in Franco-Provençal.

NEARBY



Chiesa di San Vito

The romantic ruins of this 12th century church are near the "Marquis Maresca Estate" (Taverna di San Vito).

EVENTS



April

On 25th April, the **Sagra dell'Agnello** spells lots of entertainment and mouth-watering dishes to try.

August

The procession to the San Vito Shrine takes place on 8th August as part of the celebrations for **San Vito, San Modesto** and **Santa Crescenza**. It features a women's cortège sporting crowns of leaves.

Via Traiana – Via Francigena

Originally the historic Roman thoroughfare, in the Middle Ages it was used by pilgrims on their way from Rome to Jerusalem. It goes through Celle, where the roadbed can still be seen.

On 10th August every Cellese cooks for their neighbour and everyone eats together in the streets. This wonderful idea – the Neighbours' Festival – is the **Festa del Vicino**.

On 12th August, the **Emigrant's Festival** is a celebration of the emigrants' homecoming with a mass in the Franco-Provençal language.

Food is the star of the **Sagra dei Cicatelli** on 18th August. Try the various home-made pasta dishes at stands set up in the village, with music and dancing.

Belvedere

WHERE TO EAT

Farmstay "La Bannera"

tel. +39 349 8690522

www.labannera.it

Trattoria Pizzeria "Fontanelle"

tel. +39 0881 972347

+39 329 9735621

WHERE TO SLEEP

"Svegliarsi nei Borghi"

tel. +39 349 8305477

www.svegliarsineiborghi.it

Farmstay "La Bannera"

tel. +39 349 8690522

www.labannera.it

B&B Casa "Fontanelle"

tel. +39 0881 972347

+39 329 9735621

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.cellesanvito.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 972031

Franco-Provençal information desk:

Via Roma, 1 – tel. +39 0881 972031





Together with the oak forests, Mediterranean maquis, olive groves and vineyards, Deliceto's origins are just as ancient. Prehistoric caves were dug from the stone of **Rione Pesco** by *Oscio-Italic* communities long before the Longobards built the first fort (whose imposing appearance is however owed to the Normans). The name Deliceto is thought to come from the word "elce", ilex, a tree which is also featured on the

village's coat of arms, although it is not very widespread in the area. It's easy to trace the past here because there are many clues decorating the village centre, making this an easy choice for history lovers, as well as fans of architecture, nature and good cooking. Deliceto is also the village of saints: both **Sant'Alfonso Maria de'Liguori** and **San Gerardo Maiella** lived in the **Convento della Consolazione**.

WHAT TO SEE



Norman Swabian Castle

Deliceto's skyline is dominated by the beautiful Norman-Swabian Castle, which stands atop the village and the Valle in Vincoli. It is the only Castle on the Monti Dauni which, despite numerous alterations over the centuries, has kept its fortress appearance.

Chiesa dell'Annunziata

The oldest place of worship in the village, the church used to be dedicated to San Nicola, but today is dedicated to Our lady of the Rosary. Outside, the "magic square" palindrome is definitely worth looking out for, while the interior has a Gothic structure and a beautiful font.

Chiesa Madre del SS. Salvatore

The church dedicated to the Holy Saviour probably has Longobard origins, but the present-day building dates to the 18th century, given its late Baroque style. The

imposing building holds, among other worthwhile works of art, the wooden statue of the Madonna dell'Olmitello.

Chiesa e Convento di Sant'Antonio

A 16th century Baroque-style church, with three naves and six side chapels. As well as some works by Benedetto Brunetti (17th century), it holds the precious wooden statue of S. Antonio and a beautiful pipe organ (dated 1775). The monastery has a square layout and features a splendid cloister.

Chiesa di S. Anna e Morti

The 17th century Baroque church of Sant'Anna and the Dead was built on the site of the Chiesa del Purgatorio, and contains many items from the de-consecrated Chiesa di San Cristoforo. San Gerardo Maiella is honoured here. The entrance doors are particularly interesting, with 18th century depictions on the theme of death. It also houses the Ecclesiastic Museum.

MEDIA



History HUB_Deliceto is an application (free download from the Deliceto website – Comune di Deliceto) which helps you explore the Castle. Take time to visit the photography exhibition by the German scholars, Haseloff and Wackernagel, and view the interior of the "Parasino" tower.

TRIVIA



The Convento della Consolazione is where Sant'Alfonso Maria de'Liguori composed what was to become the most famous pastorale in the world: "Tu scendi dalle stelle" (From Starry Skies Thou Comest). This has profoundly affected "*Deliceto, città di Natale*", which, at Christmas, becomes even more enchanting thanks to the street market and Live Nativity.



View of Deliceto. Following page: Castle Courtyard

NEARBY



Convento della Consolazione

The original hermitage and church date to the 15th century and to the arrival in Valle in Vincoli of the monks of the Hermit Order of St. Augustine of the Observance, led by the Blessed Felice da Corsano. In 1744 Sant'Alfonso Maria de'Liguori arrived at the Convent, by then dilapidated, and rebuilt it with the Redemptorist Order, which he founded. The convent is home to the half bust in paper-mâché of "Ecce Homo", hand sculpted by San Gerardo Maiella and the "Crucified Jesus" by Toon Grassen.

Cappella Maria SS. dell'Olmittello

Not far from the Convento di Maria SS della Consolazi-

one is this 11th century chapel dedicated to the Marian cult. Tradition has it that a statue was found among the branches of an elm tree.

Cappella Madonna di Loreto

This pretty chapel in the "Scarano" was built to allow the Albanians, who arrived in the first half of the 16th century, to celebrate their liturgy according to the Greek Rite.

The Roman Bridges

In Cavallerizza is a Roman bridge of the same name. Still astride the Carapellotto river is the beautiful, but precarious Risega bridge.



WHAT TO DO

Bosco della Consolazione

Spend a delightful morning surrounded by lush nature in this marvellous oak forest, with ample picnic facilities.

Macchione Forest

The beautiful Macchione Forest is another good place for a stroll and a picnic. Inside is the educational farmstead "Il Macchione", managed by the Pegaso Cooperative, which organises creative and educational workshops. Try not to miss the one on soap making.

EVENTS

February

On the last Sunday of the month, the **San Mattia the Apostle bonfires** are lit. Fine food, songs and dances enliven the evening.

August

On the first Sunday in August, the **Sagra dell'Orecchi-etta** is held at the Bosco della Consolazione, where the "Nymph of the Forest" is awarded.

On 14th August, **locals dress up in period costumes** and re-enact the investiture of Antonio Piccolomini as First Marquis of "Illiceto" (1463). With a "cast" of hundreds, including flag bearers and "trombonieri", the highlight is the Knights challenging one another to a "Joust".

The Deliceto "Francesco De Matteo" Music Festival, from 28th to 31st August, is an opera festival in honour of this local musician.

September

On 22nd, this **historic cavalcade** leaves the Olmitello chapel to arrive at the centre of the village. On 23rd September, a fair and procession to honour **Holy Mary dell'Olmitello** is followed by an evening's entertainment of music and fireworks.

December-January

The **Live Nativity** takes place on 26th December and 6th January.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant "Ballarò"

tel. +39 0881 963126
www.ristoranteballaro.it

Restaurant Pizzeria "Da Marcello"

tel. +39 0881 969093
+39 339 2087132

Trattoria Pizzeria "La Locandina"

tel. +39 339 6467379
+39 346 5544049

Ristorub "New Country"

tel. +39 0881 963430
+39 329 4035355

Restaurant Pizzeria "Number 1"

tel. +39 0881 967283
+39 347 2205132

Pizzeria "Bistrot"

tel. +39 328 1349422

Pizzeria Ristorub "il Normanno"

tel. +39 0881 969192
+39 347 9560667

WHERE TO SLEEP

Boarding House "Colle d'Elce"

tel. +39 0881 969100
+39 340 5253858

Boarding House "La Casina"

tel. +39 0881 963020
+39 349 5646694

www.lacasinadeliceto.it

B&B "Number 1"

tel. +39 0881 967283
+39 347 2205132

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.deliceto.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 967411

Local Tourist Office:

Corso Regina Margherita
tel. +39 0881 963433
+39 349 0546845

www.prolocodeliceto.it

Soc. Coop. Pegaso (Bosco Macchione):

tel. +39 0881 914028
+39 333 3185456

www.pegasocooperativa.it/pegaso.html

PREVIEW





The pretty village surrounded by beautiful forests owes its name to the beech tree ("faggio") and its origins to the Angevin soldiers who settled at the Benedictine monastery of **SS. Salvatore**, after abandoning the *Castrum* of Crepacore. Crisp air, good food and a **prosciutto** with an unmistakable flavour make Faeto an unforgettable destination. Spread on the eastern side of Monte Perazzoni, at 866 metres high, it overlooks

the plateau and the views are spectacular. On a clear day, you can even see Gulf of Manfredonia and the Gargano headland. Faeto's charm is added to by the local language, **Franco-Provençal**, having prevailed over the centuries, thanks to the pride of those who speak it, it has now gained official recognition and is protected by a Language Office, which promotes and encourages the language through cultural events.

WHAT TO SEE



Town Centre

The village's meandering streets and alleyways wind around the foot of the **Chiesa Madre del SS. Salvatore**. Walk around the village and count how many arches you see and find the village's main entrance: a rare example of refined beauty.

Fontana du Paije

An elegant baroque fountain with beautiful stone wash tubs. Its name comes from the natural spring feeding it.

Chiesa Madre del SS. Salvatore

The Chiesa Madre of Faeto is a fine example of religious Renaissance architecture. It was built in the 16th century using materials from the monastery of the same name, of which today, there is no trace.

La Casa del Capitano - Mu.Civi.Te

A delightful building from the 15th century, whose past is shrouded in mystery. Today it is home to the local civic museum, with an archaeological collection, information on how the village has changed, from prehistoric times to the Middle Ages.

Il Mulino Pirozzoli

The only mill in Faeto, although the millstones stopped in 1982.

WHAT TO DO



Difesa Forest

Recognised as a European "Site of Community Importance", the forest offers different colours in every season. A pristine environment, brimming with fauna, to be explored on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. It has the highest concentration of beech trees in the Monti Dauni area, Botanical Gardens, offering trails of varying length and difficulty, and picnic areas.

Water springs of Faeto

In the forest you can hear the murmur of mineral water springs, famous for their diuretic and health properties. The most popular are "il Piscero", with the "Mulino del Piscero" mill, the San Vito spring, from which the river Celone originates, the Lae Faite font, the Cuoppi and the Sciurtone font, both in the municipal forest.

NEARBY



La Taverna di San Vito

This ancient coaching inn at San Vito, on the Appia-Traiana road, was used to change horses, to stay and rest. The current appearance, of a 16th century farmhouse, is how it was when used by travellers on the Via Francigena. It is owned by the Counts of Maresca.

The crux viatoris

The cross in Lecesti is a 14th century monument although the current version dates to the 18th century.

TO TASTE


Faeto boasts a very fine prosciutto, made by hand from black pigs, bred in the wild using organic methods. The clean, dry air, the altitude, lengthy ageing in ventilated rooms and pressing with stone boulders complete the work to create a delicacy that is famous throughout Italy and celebrated at one of the most successful and oldest village fêtes in Apulia: the **Sagra del Prosciutto** di Faeto.

EVENTS
February

The first Sunday in February hosts the Sagra del Maiale, the **Pork Festival**. In the piazzas, watch, or help, the hair being removed from the black pig, then try the “soffritto” served with bread toasted in pork fat. A guided tour of the local salumifici, the salami factories, is another change to taste the local specialities.

La Pare De Vadecòle

On Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday), the Faeto carnival ends with this travelling theatrical show: a grotesque wedding, staged exclusively by male walk-ons.

March

The tradition of the **San Giuseppe bonfires** (19 March) can be seen in Faeto too.

Do not miss the **Holy Week** processions, which feature period costumes representing the apostles, the “verginele” (the Pious Women carrying the Addolorata, the grieving Madonna) and the Jews, who represent the armed guards.

August

The **Sagra del Prosciutto** takes place on the first Sunday in August and attracts many tourists, looking forward to enjoy the prosciutto and all the other specialities. The event takes place every year in Bosco Difesa and there is a grilled meat and salami stand, to be savoured and washed down with a glass of wine and some music.

The celebration for the patron saint and martyr **San Prospero and SS. Salvatore** takes place on the second Sunday in August. In addition to the religious rites, such as holy masses and a procession through streets, there is an outdoor market, live music and fireworks, best enjoyed from the “Belvedere”.

On August 15th, Faeto thanks the Virgin Mary for the wheat harvest with the **Festa della Madonna delle Spighe**. Heads of wheat are the *leitmotiv* of the day. Used to decorate the statue of the Madonna dell’Assunta, they are distributed to the population to bring good fortune. The folk group “Le Faitare” parade in the procession wearing traditional costumes.

WHERE TO EAT
Restaurant “Piano delle Noci”

tel. +39 0881 973014

Restaurant Salami factory “Moreno”

tel. +39 0881 973205

www.prosciuttodifaeto.it

Locanda “Casa Mia”

tel. +39 0881 973018

+39 349 5864377

WHERE TO SLEEP
B&B “Il Grifone”

tel. +39 348 4462285

Haven “Piano delle Noci”

tel. +39 0881 973014

Boarding House “Casa Mia”

tel. +39 0881 973018

+39 349 5864377

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.faeto.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 973290

Casa del Capitano – Mu.Civi.Te:

Via Vittorio Emanuele, 5

tel. +39 0881 973290

Mulino Pirazzoli: open by booking

tel. +39 347 8229951

Sportello Linguistico:

tel. +39 0881 973290



Palatium federiciano, Lucera

Lucera is a village with a thousand souls: Greek, Dauna, Roman, Christian, Gothic, Longobard, Byzantine, Frankish, Norman, Swabian, Saracen, Angevin, Aragonese, Bourbon...

Owing to its geographic position, strategically lying on the top of a hill in the middle of the plateau, the village is also known as **“the sentry of Apulia”**. The area is rich in vineyards, olive groves and vast expanses of wheat. Architectural signs of the landowning tradition are the farmsteads, dotted here and there, which offer farm stays and B&Bs. They offer the chance to discover flavours, traditions and authenticity in this landscape steeped in history.

The refined traces of the village’s history, which allow **“Nobilis Lecería”** (Horatius) to take pride in being a **“city of art”**, are displayed discretely on the streets at its centre,

the main piazza, an amazing “stone drawing room” where peaceful daily life flows amid elegant boutiques and attractive cafés. The origins of its name are uncertain, but it probably comes from two Etruscan roots that mean “sacred wood” (**“luc”**, wood, and **“eri”**, sacred). Some, however, think that “Lucera” might derive from the Greek **“leuka ería”** meaning “white wool”, a reference to the area’s famous sheep, or even from the Latin **“lux Cereris”**, referring to a temple dedicated to the Goddess of the harvest.

The ancient capital of the **“Capitanata”**, Lucera is enveloped in mystery: according to myth, it was founded by Diomedes, King of Aetolia; it was first a Greek then a Roman colony; it was conquered by Charlemagne; fought over by Longobards and Byzantines and became an imperial and then an Arab village under Frederick II of Swabia; then it was Christian and Gothic under the D’Anjou.

WHAT TO SEE



Roman Amphitheatre

Built in the 1st century BC, this is a precious reminder of the splendour of the past, with two magnificent stone portals and the theatrical staircase accessing the arena.

Swabian-Angevin Fortress

A solemn atmosphere surrounds the marvellous 13th century fortress, consisting of mighty walls topped by the towers of the Lion and Lioness. Inside are archaeological remains of the Roman, Frederician and Angevin ages.

Piazza del Duomo

At the heart of the village, the splendid Piazza del Duomo is listed as one of the "One hundred most beautiful Piazzas of Italy".

Basilica Cattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta Chiesa Santuario di San Francesco d'Assisi

This 1300s church, in addition to the artistic value of the portal, the Neapolitan school canvasses, the Giotto-esque frescoes and the rose window on the façade, also

holds the mortal remains of Antonio Fasani, the first saint of the Capitanata.

Chiesa di San Domenico

An Angevin church in Gothic style, it was radically altered in the 18th century in a lavish Baroque style. The chequerboard façade dates to that period and on the right of the façade you can admire the 18th century Rosary Chapel.

Chiesa di Sant'Antonio Abate

A 14th century church erected by Robert of Anjou and entrusted to the Order of the Teutonic Knights. The dome, covered with colourful ceramic tiles, is perhaps reminiscent of a former harem.

Chiesa and Convento del Carmine

Lucera's Baroque jewel was built in the 18th century, partly with material taken from the Swabian-Angevin Fortress. It holds a canvas of the Grieving Mary and an altar piece of Saint Theresa of Avila by Ermenegildo Costantino.



WHAT TO DO



Visit the **museum in Fiorelli**, for archaeological finds from the Roman, paleo-Christian and Medieval ages. There is a section devoted to numismatics, a bronze collection, an ethnographic section and an interesting picture gallery with Neapolitan school paintings.

The Diocesan Museum, housed in the 18th century **Palazzo Vescovile**, holds relics, religious art and furnishings from various periods, as well as paintings from the 16th century onwards, scrolls and incunabula.

The very fine vaulted ceiling, frescoed in Neoclassical style, firmly puts **Teatro Garibaldi** among the most important theatres in the country. A small but very elegant “copy” of Teatro Petruzzelli, the theatre organises a high-quality programme all year round.

TRIVIA



La stretta Ciacianella

Vico Ciacianella had to be necessarily special. The “street” is 45 cm wide. You have to go down it sideways and, not surprisingly, it has always been something of an oddity for Lucera. In any case, the Lucerini would never have imagined that their alleyway would be one of the “narrowest streets in Europe”.

Folk tradition itineraries: the votive niches

Votive niches are small shrines set in aristocratic palaces to hold a sacred image. The streets around the centre are rich in these artistic expressions of devotion and prayer. The first ones date to 1943, and were dedicated to Saint Mary and to San Francesco Antonio Fasani. Delicately coloured, decorated by flowers and lights, the votive niches offer a moving journey through history and culture.

.....
View of Lucera.

*Opposite page:
Basilica Cathedral of
Santa Maria Assunta*



EVENTS**February**

The **Carnevale** di Lucera is an ancient tradition characterised by the **Quarantana** custom. After the symbol for Carnival has been burnt, its widow, the quarantana, is assembled: a puppet of an old lady in mourning with an orange tied to its bottom. It is left in the street hanging from a rope and evokes fasting for Lent. Stuck to the orange are as many black feathers as there are Sundays in Lent and a single white one. Every Sunday a black feather is pulled out until Resurrection Sunday. When the last feather, the white one, is extracted and the puppet is set alight.

June

The "**Umberto Bozzini National Literary Prize**" is an important cultural initiative. Beginning in 1970, the festival dedicated to the Lucerino playwright and poet offers a platform for new talent in theatre, fiction and poetry.

August

The **Torneo delle Chiavi** is a re-enactment of medieval games, tests of strength and ability, punctuated by equestrian performances and parades of knights. It takes place on the second week of the month.

The **celebrations** to honour **Santa Maria dell'Assunta** takes place on 14th, 15th and 16th August, during which the village is transformed by the colourful stands of the street markets. On the last day, the events close with a procession, a concert and fireworks.

September

On the first week of the month, the Lucera tourist office, in cooperation with other local and provincial tourist offices, organises the **Sagra delle sagre**. The event is centred on a different part of the village each year and features typical products and dishes from several Capitanata villages.

The "**Mediterranean Literature Festival**" is an event that promotes culture in all its forms, with a special focus on the countries in the Mediterranean area. It animates the village around mid-September. Set in the piazzas and in the courtyards of the aristocratic palaces, the event involves meetings with celebrated writers, musical matinees, buffets and shows.

Amphitheatre, Lucera



WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant

"Palazzo D'Auria Secondo"

tel. +39 0881 530446
+39 333 9188472
www.palazzodauriasecondo.it

Restaurant "Il Cortiletto"

tel. +39 0881 542554
+39 347 1503403
www.ristoranteilcortiletto.it

Farmstead "Montaratro"

tel. +39 0881 542885
+39 349 3649568
ristorantemasseriamontaratro.it

Restaurant "Il Veliero"

tel. +39 0881 522771

Restaurant "Al Duomo"

tel. +39 0881 200277
+39 380 6411211
+39 327 5466829

Restaurant "La Cantina del Pozzo" Winery and Restaurant

tel. +39 0881 547373
+39 338 1059795
www.lacantinadel Pozzo.it 

Restaurant

"La Taverna del Lupus"

tel. +39 0881 530593

Farm and Guest House

"Villa Uva"  
tel. +39 329 6335755
www.villauva.it

Restaurant "Vigna Nocelli"

tel. +39 0881 548109
+39 0881 1881698
+39 342 3741605
www.grandhotelvignanocelli.com

Bar Tavern "Il Giglio"

at Hotel "Sorriso" 
tel. +39 0881 540306
www.hotelsorrisolucera.it

Winery and Restaurant

"Bacco & Perbacco"
tel. +39 0881 524979
+39 348 3662477
www.baccoeperbacco.com

Restaurant "Sale & Pepe"

tel. +39 328 0093980

Restaurant Pizzeria "Galaad"

tel. +39 329 3091188
+39 393 3558999

Restaurant Pizzeria

"Lupus in Fabula"

tel. +39 0881 530593

Bar Restaurant Pizzeria

"Nocelli Lounge Bar"

tel. +39 0881 529418

Hotel Restaurant "Villa Imperiale"

tel. +39 0881 520998
+39 0881 546725
www.villaimperialehotel.com 

Farmstay

"Masseria Sant'Agapito"

tel. +39 0881 547827
+39 333 4495798
www.masseriasantagapito.it

Restaurant "Palace Lucera"

tel. +39 0881 539072

www.palacelucera.it

Locanda "Pampanelle"

tel. +39 0881 549990
+39 329 7859102
www.relaisincontrada.it

Trattoria Pizzeria "Borgo Antico"

tel. +39 0881525307
+39 327 5445184

Pizzeria Restaurant "Peter Pan"

tel. +39 329 1884175

Farmstay Il Seggio

tel. +39 0881 548563
+39 338 4029236

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B "Palazzo D'Auria Secondo"

tel. +39 0881 530446
+39 333 9188472
www.palazzodauriasecondo.it

Hotel "Residence di Federico II"

tel. +39 0881 201421
www.residenzadifedericosecondo.it

Grand Hotel "Vigna Nocelli"

Resort & Spa "L"

tel. +39 0881 548109
+39 342 3741605
+39 0881 1881698
www.grandhotelvignanocelli.com

Hotel "Palace Lucera"

tel. +39 0881 539072
www.palacelucera.it

Hotel "Sorriso"

tel. +39 0881 540306
www.hotelsorrisolucera.it

Hotel Restaurant "Villa Imperiale"

tel. +39 0881 520998
+39 0881 546725
www.villaimperialehotel.com 

B&B "Mimosa"

tel. +39 0881 546066
+39 338 4570070
+39 333 2884346
www.mimosalucera.it

Farm and guest house

"Villa Uva"

tel. +39 329 6335755
www.villauva.it

Relais In Contrada

tel. +39 0881 549990
+39 329 7859102
www.relaisincontrada.it

B&B "La Balconata"

tel. +39 0881 520050
www.labalconata.it

La Maison Rosa Stella

tel. +39 0881 525821
+39 338 4023452
+39 338 1059795

B&B "Tenente Schiavone"

tel. +39 320 3626618
www.tenenteschiavone.it

B&B "Muro Torto"

tel. +39 0881 520740
+39 389 9379869
www.murotortolucera.it

B&B "Il Crogiuolo"

at Farmstay

"Masseria Sant'Agapito"

tel. +39 0881 547827
+39 333 4495798
www.masseriasantagapito.it

B&B "Alla Piazzetta del Convitto"

tel. +39 0881 540317
www.piazzettedelconvitto.it 

Farmstay "Petrilli"

tel. +39 0881 523980

Farmstay "Posta di Torrebianca"

tel. +39 0881 542910
www.postaditorrebianca.it

B&B "Le Foglie di Acanto"

tel. +39 0881 546691
+39 340 3652912
www.lefogliediacanto.it

B&B "Casa Cavalli"

tel. +39 0881 203242
+39 347 1935638
www.palazzocavalli.it

Country House In Contrada

tel. +39 0881 549990
+39 329 7859102
www.incontradacountryhouse.com

Farmstead "Montaratro"

tel. +39 0881 542885
+39 349 3649568
ristorantemasseriamontaratro.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.lucera.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 541 111

Centro Informazione Turistica:

Piazza Nocelli, 6
tel. +39 0881 522762
toll-free number 800 767606

Local Tourist Office:

Piazza Nocelli, 4
tel. +39 0881 545374
Swabian-Angevin Fortress:
toll-free number 800 767606

Roman Amphitheatre:

toll-free number 800 767606

Town Museum Fiorelli:

tel. +39 0881 547041

Diocesan Museum:

tel. +39 0881 520882 int. 6

Montaratro Riding Centre:

tel. +39 0881 542885

Toll-free numbers are only accessible from within Italy



Monteleone di Puglia is the highest municipality in Apulia (842 m) and the view from its plateau takes in the last edge of eastern Iripinia. The origins of its name likely derive from **Munt Lion**, a name given to the place by the Lyon Waldenses who settled here, fleeing the persecution they suffered in Provence during

the Pope's permanence in Avignon (1309-1376). But the origins of the village are more ancient than that, as is clear from the discovery of a necropolis dating to the year 1000. The village was the fiefdom of the Guevara family, who built a baronial palace (the present-day Palazzo Trombetti) surrounded by walls which are no longer visible.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa Madre di San Giovanni Battista

Built on a 14th century church, this is a beautiful example of 19th century religious architecture. The façade has grey stone diamond-faced rustication, while the interior is Baroque.

Chiesa di San Rocco

Deep devotion to the Saint led to this countryside chapel to be built and rebuilt. The current church dates to the 19th century, but features a fine much earlier façade.

Obelisk of Piazza Municipio

This monument dates to the 15th century and was erected to record the short period during which Monteleone was handed to Martino Marziale by Ferdinand II.

Holy Cross

In Largo Trombetti, the stone cross from the 1800s was raised to celebrate the fight by the republican armies against the Napoleonic troops.

WHAT TO DO



Macchione Area

The area around Monteleone is ideal for relaxing and for restoring your well-being, not least because of the many sulphur water springs.

Selvamala Forest

Leisure, peace, tranquillity, relaxing walks: they are all available at the beautiful Selvamala forest.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Norman Prince Ruggero II of Altavilla turned the Kingdom of Sicily into one of the most powerful and best organised European States. In 1140, he convened his feudal lords in Ariano to enact the **Assize**: a veritable constitution ahead of its time. Few people know, however that the first Assize was in Camporeale (Ariano Irpino), the second, in 1142, in the Selvamala Forest in Monteleone.

23 August 1942: "We want bread, we want "sfarinare"!" thus was the cry from the women of Monteleone to their mayor, after their pots of baked maize had been seized And thus began the first **popular uprising** in Italy **against the fascist regime**, quenched with ninety-six arrests. It lasted more than a year.

The events were only reported by *Radio London* and never made it into any history book. The "insurgents" were put on trial, which only ended in 1950 with their acquittal for amnesty (after all, fascism had already fallen a few years before).

Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista



EVENTS



March

San Giuseppe Bonfire: Monteleone pays homage to the carpenter Saint by lighting a bonfire (19th March).

Easter Saturday night

People walk the streets announcing the end of Lent, singing **the Pasquarella** to seek hospitality and food.

May/August

San Rocco is celebrated on the first Sunday of May and on 16th August. But it is the summer event that draws the Saint's devotees in droves. The village awakes early with an historical fair, followed by religious rites that last all day, ending with musical entertainment and fireworks.

August

The **Sagra del Maiale nero** (Black Pig Festival) is held in the first ten days in August.

La Sagra del Caciocavallo, dei Cicatelli e dell'Acc' (the pasta with caciocavallo cheese and celery festival) takes place in the enchanting setting of Piazza Municipio, the heart of Monteleone, on 13th August.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant "Scacco Matto"

tel. +39 0881 983303

+39 0881 983238

Farmhouse "Lu Stallier"

tel. +39 0881 983185

+39 388 9585327

Farmhouse Restaurant

"L'Aquilone"

tel. +39 0881 983351

+39 333 9427069

Farmhouse Educational

Farmstay "La Cerasola"

Workshops on crop cycles; on milk processing; on honey.

tel. +39 0881 983249

+39 335 6727807

Bar Pizzeria "Barisfera"

tel. +39 346 6387450

WHERE TO SLEEP

Farmstay "Lu Stallier"

tel. +39 0881 983185

+39 388 9585327

B&B "De Vitto"

tel. +39 0881 983179

+39 346 9624010

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.monteleonedipuglia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 983397



Motta Montecorvino is a lively village, a stone's throw from **Monte Sambuco**. Forests, fields, and special historical and environmental features are spread throughout, making it the ideal starting point for every type of excursion. The village was built following the diaspora of the residents of Montecorvino, which was destroyed by the Normans in 1137. The name

Motta might come from the Latin adverb "mox", meaning close, in the sense of near Montecorvino, from whose ashes it was built; or it might mean "rock or sloping terrain". The massive fortification erected to protect the village dates to the 1400s. Today, only three entrances remain, located in the historic centre. The immense keeps were destroyed by a violent earthquake in 1456.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa Madre di San Giovanni Battista

The Chiesa Madre is a 15th century building featuring an exposed stone façade and a fine rose window.

Bell tower

This ancient tower is right next to the village walls and can be seen from afar. It was turned into a belfry in the 15th century and overlooks the entire village.

The medieval gates

Originally, an imposing fortification protected Motta Montecorvino. Of the five gates along the village walls, only parts of three remain: the Porta Centrale, which is the main entrance to the historic centre, and two arches hidden in the alleyways.

Town Museum of Peasant Culture and folk traditions

The first ethnographic museum in the Foggia Province was set up to preserve peasant culture: a collection documenting the local, rural traditions.

Saint Luke's Oak

Surely the most unusual monument in Motta Montecorvino is the almost one-thousand-year old Saint Luke's Oak: a ten-metre high downy oak with a five-metre trunk, which stands majestically in the middle of the village.

WHAT TO DO



Excursions on Monte Sambuco

Take a trip to Monte Sambuco and witness an area rich in biodiversity and landscapes of incomparable beauty. An extensive network of trails can be done on foot, by bike or on horseback, and there are paths for inexperienced hikers.

Adventure Park

On Monte Sambuco, try the many acrobatic paths for children and teenagers: experiencing nature has never been so much fun!

NEARBY



Monte Sambuco Rural Church

Among the many things you should discover when visiting Motta Montecorvino is the little church on the summit of Monte Sambuco. It's the destination of the procession organised every 6th May to honour the patron saint, San Giovanni.

TRIVIA



Saint Luke's Oak owes its name to a simple tradition. On 18th October, the day of the Fiera di San Luca (Saint Luke) at nearby Volturara Appula, people would meet at the oak and then set off in groups. Families would wait at the oak for their return.



Saint Luke's Oak - Below: Village centre



EVENTS



May

On 5th and 6th May, celebrations are held for the **Madonna dell'Arco and San Giovanni Battista**. A mass is held in the church on Monte Sambuco in remembrance of the saint's miracle which ended a drought in 1901. Then, a procession returns the Saint's icon to the village on a float richly adorned with scented flowers, followed by other floats decorated to recall passages from the Bible.

August

On the first Sunday in August, the village celebrates the **Sagra del Prosciutto**. The **Festa di San Giovanni Battista** is held on 28th and 29th August with a procession in honour of the saint and an evening's entertainment and fireworks.

WHERE TO EAT..... WHERE TO SLEEP.....

Restaurant "La Bicocca"

tel. +39 0881 551118

www.hotellabicocca.it

Hotel "La Bicocca"

tel. +39 0881 551118

www.hotellabicocca.it

Restaurant "Baita San Giovanni"

tel. +39 340 2562458

Restaurant Pizzeria "Bellavista"

tel. +39 340 2662513

CONTACTS.....

Town Hall: www.comune.mottamontecorvino.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 551007

Local Tourist Office: Via Roma, 14 - tel. +39 0881 551007

Museum of Peasant Culture and Folk Traditions:

Piazza Aldo Moro - tel. +39 346 2321664

Adventure Park: tel. +39 340 2562458



Orsara di Puglia is a pretty little village surrounded by a huge natural heritage. Its history tells of warrior angels and monks, of abbots and feudal lords and pilgrims. The environment and history are two excellent reasons to visit Orsara, but the most appetising reason is for the fine wine and food: goat *cacioricotta*, asparagus, durum wheat bread, superlative wines. Orsara has many typical

products, which is why the village has been awarded the “**Cittàslow**” mark (Slow town) by the **Slow Food** organisation. The restaurants in the charming old part of the village offer the ideal setting to savour all the nuances of flavours without haste. Given the range and variety of its tourist attractions, Orsara has also been awarded the “**Orange Flag**” quality mark for tourism and environmentalism by the Touring Club.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa dell'Annunziata

The simple 11th century Chiesa dell'Annunziata, the heart of the abbey, almost looks like a fortress. Its majesty and beauty fill visitors with wonder.

Saint Michael Cave and Chiesa di San Pellegrino

Go down the staircase, into the cave and listen to the echoes of the chants of the faithful. The mosaics, polychrome stained glass windows and Bronze Portal carved by Iorio Vivarelli of the vestibular church are not to be missed.

Diocesan Museum of the Angel

In the Lapidarium next to the Chiesa dell'Annunziata are items from various ages. In Palazzo Varo there are religious art (ask to see the *antifonari!*) and items from peasant culture.

Chiesa di San Nicola

Enter the Chiesa di San Nicola to view the Statue of The Archangel Michael, the Statue of the Madonna of the Snow, the baptismal font dating to the year 600 and the beautiful Stone Crucifix.

The Fountains

The village's two fountains are beautiful: the Fontana Nuova was built in 1457 and extended in 1663 by Francesco Guevara; and the Fontana dell'Angelo, which for years was the village's main source of water.

Baronial Palace (former Abbey)

An 11th century building which was home to Benedictine monks, knights of the Calatrava order and the Guevara feudal lords. The entry portal in diamond-pointed rusticated stone is noteworthy.

Ancient Straw Oven

This Renaissance oven, using an Arab technique, still works.

WHAT TO DO



Take a walk through the alleyways and sit *al fresco*, possibly on a *gnale* (a stone platform with steps, being the extension of the threshold to a home onto the street). Pause to look at the gracefulness of the portals to the village, like that of **Palazzo Tappi**.

Between the end of April and the beginning of May, go to the top of **Monte Preisi**, marvel at the outstanding views, but look for the **wild orchids** that dot the meadows (remember that they are a protected species. Please don't touch them!).



TRIVIA



Part of the **defensive walls** can still be seen (which is quite rare in these parts): let the Orsaresi themselves show you the best spots.

Places: Orsara is surrounded by areas of natural interest, with extraordinary biodiversity especially in plants (wild herbs, fruit trees, medicinal herbs, etc...). Organise a **treasure hunt** along the streets: whoever finds the architrave with Freemasonry symbols, identifies Porta Greci (the only entrance to have survived the ravages of time) and spots the narrowest alley is the winner.

The **round stone** of the free corner of the Chiesa di San Nicola, is neither a seat, nor the remnant of a column. It was used for executions.

Orsara Jazz

EVENTS



June

The **Sagra dell'Asparago** takes place on the second Sunday in June in Giardinetto.

On the last Saturday in June is the **GEO "Galleria Eno-Gastronomica"** – the **Wine Festival** – an event rich in tastings and music that fills the streets together with typical dishes to try.

August

Early in the month sees a truly spectacular event: **Orsara Jazz**. This jazz festival attracts international guests and fans from all over Italy and includes seminars and musical workshops held by the same musicians playing in the event.

September

On 29th, the **Warrior Angel** is celebrated, with a night vigil, singing, a procession and a music concert.

November

1st November sees an appointment with a tradition whose origins are lost in the mists of time: the **"Fucacoste e Cocce Priatorje"**. People get up at dawn to cut broom bushes. In the evening, mingle with the crowds around the bonfires, eat, drink and listen to the live music. For children: ask your parents to buy a pumpkin and then go to the creative workshops run by the Local Tourist Office.





WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant

**“Nuova Sala Paradiso”
of Peppe Zullo**

tel. +39 0881 964763

www.peppezullo.it

**Restaurant “Villa Jamele”
of Peppe Zullo –**

International cooking school

tel. +39 0881 968234

+39 320 7470093

www.villajamele.it

Restaurant “Medina” 

tel. +39 0881 964044

+39 348 7040438

Restaurant

“La Locanda dell’Angelo”

tel. +39 0881 968045

Typical Restaurant

“Donna Cecilia”

tel. +39 0881 964388

+39 349 5522615

www.donnacecilia.it

Restaurant “EGO

Enogastronomia Orsarese”

tel. +39 349 4145377

Restaurant “Borgo Antico”

tel. +39 389 7962292

www.borgoanticoorsara.it

Trattoria “Pane e Salute” 

tel. +39 0881 964826

+39 366 5464992

Restaurant Pizzeria

“La Gargotta dei Calatrava”

tel. +39 0881 968000

Pub “Panta Rei”

tel. +39 0881 964979

Bar Restaurant Pizzeria

“La Tana dell’Orso”

tel. +39 0881 964169

Farmstay

“Il brutto anatroccolo” 

tel. +39 0881 964160

+39 327 6691584

Wine Bar “Pablo Neruda”

tel. +39 349 4947015

Farmstay Educational Farm

“Posta Guevara” 

Pasta workshops

tel. +39 0881 976880

+39 342 7806551

www.postaguevara.com

Restaurant Pizzeria da Paolo

tel. +39 0881 964737

+39 347 9431096

Pizzeria del Corso

tel. +39 0881 968138

+39 349 0887158

Farmstay Educational Farm

“Monte Preisi”

tel. +39 328 2378055

Farmstay “Nonna Elena”

tel. +39 0881 191018

+39 366 5464992

Hotel Restaurant “Le Querce”

tel. +39 0881.961256

WHERE TO SLEEP

Suites Villa Jamele

tel. +39 0881 968234

+39 320 7470093

www.villajamele.it

Farmstay – Educational Farm

“Posta Guevara” 

tel. +39 0881 976880

+39 342 7806551

www.postaguevara.com

Suites del Paradiso

tel. +39 0881 964763

www.peppezullo.it

B&B “Paradiso”

tel. +39 327 6556695

Boarding House

Camere con Vista

tel. +39 0881 964787

+39 349 5470072

Farmstay

“Il brutto anatroccolo” 

tel. +39 0881 964160

+39 327 6691584

B&B “Marianeve”

tel. +39 0881 964403

+39 347 3480294

“La Locanda dell’Angelo”

tel. +39 0881 968045

Albergo Restaurant “Le Querce”

Tel. +39 0881 961256

+39 0881 961844

B&B “Del Priore”

tel. +39 0881 964851

+39 347 1649940

B&B “Donna Titina” 

tel. +39 320 6119875

+39 393 0099193

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.orsaradipuglia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 964013

Local Tourist Office: Piazza XX Settembre, 1

tel. +39 0881 964904 / +39 349 4791034 prolocorsara@libero.it

Straw oven: tel. +39 0881 964826 / +39 366 5464992

PREVIEW





Panni owes its name to **Pan**, god of mountains and woods, and is part of the coat of arms. The origins of the village are ancient and might date to the 7th or 5th century BC, although the first documentary evidence of the village is in the 1400s. The archaeological finds from the Serra di Panni area, not far away, are Ro-

man. In 1456, a violent plague decimated the population. In 1494, rule was handed to the feudal lords Perretto de Ponte and Giovanna de Orenco. More recently, during the years of Italy's unification, the area was against the Piedmontese, and was to lose much of its youth during the two World Wars.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa Madre Maria SS. Assunta

Built in 1847 on the ancient ruins of another church, this church has collapsed several times due to a number of earthquakes. Inside is the marble statue of Our Lady of Loreto.

The tower

The ruins of a tower are what remains of the widest fortification that once stood here. The origins of the castle are uncertain and construction of the tower is attributed, varyingly, to the Normans, to Frederick II, to Pietro of Toledo, viceroy of Naples. What is certain is that it was a military fort defending the Cervaro Valley.

Palazzo Manuppelli

This fine building stands out for its rich, round-arched portal with roll moulding, crested keystone, and symmetrical decorations of animals, volutes and spirals.

Chiesa del Calvario

A pretty little 19th century church built in the Baroque style. It owes its name to the five iron crosses with stone bases aligned on its side.

Chiesa del Purgatorio

An elegant early 19th century Church in neoclassic style, with an unusual courtyard entry.

NEARBY



Santuario e Convento della Madonna del Bosco

The church and annexed monastery date to the 17th century and lie at the foot of Mount Crispignano, where, legend has it, a shepherdess saw an image of Our Lady among the branches of a large oak. Every year they become the setting for an evocative procession that accompanies the Madonna of the Forest to the village.

Fountains

Around Panni are numerous fountains bearing ancient inscriptions. Among the main ones are Fontana di S. Elia, Fontana di Mata, Fontana Vecchia, Fontana Nuova.

TRIVIA



The Panni bagpipe

Few know that Panni is the birthplace of a particular type of bagpipe. Although strictly speaking, it's more of a hornpipe. It looks a little like the flute Pan carries and is the only native one in the whole of Apulia. It was played only in Panni, at Christmas celebrations on Christmas Eve, on Christmas Day morning and on 6th January. The sound of the bagpipe on Christmas Eve night is to alert people of danger: any child born that night might turn into a "Pumpunar" (werewolf).

WHAT TO DO

Walk through history and nature

The small alleyways are special feature: explore the narrow streets in Panni and discover churches and many fine sculpted portals.

Head to the Belvedere "Toppolo" at the foot of the ancient tower to enjoy a wonderful panorama.

Nature and history can be discovered together if you venture out of the village, either on foot or on horseback, and seek out the old water mill. Or head into the oak forest that surrounds the Chiesa della Madonna del Bosco.

Paragliding

The land around Panni is worth a visit but the skies are open to you too! The village peak is a popular spot for paragliding who take to the sky for the views over the Cervaro Valley, Mount Crispiniano and the Monteleone Plateau.

EVENTS

March

19th March is **San Giuseppe's** day, celebrated in Panni with bonfires in the streets. The atmosphere is magical and children and adults alike take part in singing and dancing around the fire.

August

The **Festa delle Spighe**, the Wheat Ear festival, takes place at Ferragosto, 15th August, and features a cortège with carts decorated with wheat in remembrance of the ancient custom of donating part of the harvest to the patron saints.

The patron saints (San Vito, San Costanzo, Sant'Antonio of Padua, Our Lady of the Forest) are celebrated on 25th, 26th and 27th August. Three days of events and activities, not only a religious nature.

Festa della spiga


WHERE TO EAT
Restaurant Pizzeria "Old Garden" 

tel. +39 0881 965480

www.oldgarden.net

Restaurant Pizzeria
"La Locanda di Pan" 

tel. +39 0881 965523

www.lalocandadipan.it

WHERE TO SLEEP
Diffuse hotel "La Locanda di Pan" 

tel. +39 0881 965523

www.lalocandadipan.it

B&B "Casa Vacanza"

tel. +39 338 7377990

www.panni-bedandbreakfast.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.panni.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 965039

Local Tourist Office: Via Romolo, 4

tel. +39 340 6684013

Master Bagpipe Artisans:

Antonio Mauriello: +39 339 7908195

Francesco Capobianco: +39 0881 965131



The fascinating village of Pietramontecorvino, one of "The **Most Beautiful Villages in Italy**" and proud of its "**Orange Flag**" from the Touring Club, preserves its fine medieval heart in Terravecchia. Its history is of two villages. Pietra was an ancient village that stood exactly on a stone in the valley of Guado degli Uncini. It was here that the inhabitants of Montecorvino sought refuge

in 1137, when Ruggero the Norman destroyed the village. From then, the history of Pietramontecorvino saw various barons, princes and counts that ruled the fiefdom until 1580, when the feudal rule passed to the dukes of Montalto di Tocco, who remained in power until 1806, when feudalism was abolished. The official name of the village was set in 1862, after the Unification of Italy.

WHAT TO SEE



Terravecchia

Go through the Gothic arch of Port'Alta and explore the streets and alleyways, look for the original buildings excavated in the tufa and surrounded by the older monuments like the Norman Tower, the Duke's Palace and the Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta.

The Duke's Palace

The Duke's Palace, of Norman-Swabian age and most likely built on a pre-existing Byzantine fort, has three courtyards (one of which was a hanging garden) and a large tower connected through a boundary wall. The reception hall is worth a visit for the frescoes showing the coat of arms of the last feudal lords of Pietra.

Parish Archaeological Museum

The museum, in the underground rooms of the Duke's Palace, holds archaeological finds from various ages.

Chiesa Madre

The medieval church of **Santa Maria Assunta** contains items from its original construction such as the carved Easter lamb, the symbol of Christ who died and rose. With Romanesque influences, it features Gothic and Renaissance elements and 8th century additions. The fine bell tower ends with a wonderful dome with yellow and green tiles.

Norman Tower

This majestic tower dominates the outline and is 40 metres high. The well-proportioned Norman structure is made more graceful by some Anjevin additions: pretty, two-light mullioned windows and a balcony. Restoration inside is a fine mix of original elements and modern materials. The original wooden spiral staircase is definitely worth seeing, as is the view from the terraced roof.

Chiesa dell'Annunziata

The pretty Chiesa dell'Annunziata has a Baroque style exposed stonework façade, with two windows and a portal topped by a lunette.

Chiesa del Rosario

The main feature of this Church, consecrated in the early 1700s, is the coffered ceiling, with the Madonna presenting a rosary to San Domenico and Santa Caterina da Siena.

WHAT TO DO



The **educational Castel di Pietra restaurant** offers the chance to discover the secrets of local fine food, guiding you from the seasonal ingredients offered by nature, to the preparation (and tasting) of traditional dishes.



Norman Tower

NEARBY



Experiencing nature

In the Bosco Celle forest is the **Casa del Guardiaboschi**, the Forester's House, which has been restored for environmental educational activities. It is the ideal starting point for a trip into the forest, to the **Pila del Ladro** and the **Pila di Sant'Onofrio**.

Parco Dauniavventura has five routes of varying difficulty, Tibetan bridges and swinging trunks for fun in the forest.

EVENTS



May

Sant'Alberto is the patron saint of Pietramontecorvino and on 16th May, this Norman saint is celebrated with a procession to the ruins of the old Cathedral of Montecorvino. Watch out for the pali, long tree trunks covered by colourful handkerchiefs that are carried by teams of at least seven people.

August

The Feast of **Santa Maria di Costantinopoli** takes place on 18th and 19th August with the usual religious rites, musical shows and fireworks.

The last weekend in August sees the **Terravecchia in Folk** festival of art, entertainment and folklore.

September

In the third week in September, discover the charm of **Sounds, Flavours and Colours of Terravecchia**: a journey through culture, traditions, history and typical food and wine.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant Pizzeria
"Peccati di Gola"

tel. +39 0881 555777
+39 338 6889582

Casa Salcone
tel. +39 0881 555743
www.casasalcone.it

Restaurant Pizzeria
"Il Sasso d'Oro"
tel. +39 0881 555407

Trattoria Braceria
"Montecorvino"
tel. +39 320 872 3980

Restaurant
"La Locanda del Borgo"
tel. +39 380 4307003
Pizzeria "Marimba"
tel. +39 0881 555815
+39 329 0446799

Castel di Pietra
tel. +39 0881 519161
www.casteldipietra.it

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B "Domus"
tel. +39 340 2319510

B&B "Rosalia's House"
tel. +39 320 8723980

Castel di Pietra
tel. +39 0881 519161
www.casteldipietra.it

B&B "Belvedere"
tel. +39 349 5666142

B&B "Pensione Palazzo
Celenza"
tel. +39 0881 555574
+39 328 3590056
www.pensionepalazzocelenza.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.pietramontecorvino.fg.it
tel. +39 0881 555020

Dauniavventura Park:
tel. +39 0881 613290 / +39 342 3702028
www.dauniavventura.it

Educational Restaurant "Castel di Pietra":
tel. +39 0881 519161 - www.casteldipietra.it

Local Tourist Office: tel. +39 333 6819653
Terravecchia in Folk: tel. +39 340 2831256

PREVIEW





Over the centuries the village has had various names: originally called “**Oppidum Rocca**”, it became “**Sant’Antimo in Rocca**” and now is *Rocchetta Sant’Antonio*. *Francesco De Sanctis* re-christened it “**Rocchetta the poetic**”. Its history is marked first by the fight between Longobards and Byzantines,

then by Norman rule. The village amazes visitors almost immediately with the traces of its medieval origins, the Renaissance palaces, the piazzas, the alleyways and the inimitable perspective effect of the small houses. Everything contributes to create an atmosphere of collected harmony, and the award of the “**Orange Flag**” from the Touring Club.

WHAT TO SEE

Ruins of Castel Sant’Antimo

Only a ruined tower remains of the first castle in the village which is considered to be either late Byzantine or Norman. The fortress, destroyed in the 1456 earthquake, had a square layout and four corner towers.

Castello D’Aquino

Be amazed by the stateliness and Renaissance elegance of the castle built by Ladislaus II of Aquinas. The harmony of the architecture is attributable to its likely creator: Francesco Di Giorgio Martini. Passed down over the centuries, today it is owned by the Piccolo family.

Chiesa di San Giuseppe

The small 14th century Chiesa di San Giuseppe was originally annexed to the castle.

Casa Mattia (or Corte)

Only the walls and a fine 17th century portal remain, beyond which is a wonderful viewing point.

The Seggio

Typical structure of the Vicereign of Naples, this stone seat was used for audiences with the feudal lord. The one in Rocchetta dates to the 16th century and consists of two round arches supported by hand-carved columns.

Chiesa Madre dell’Assunzione della Beata Vergine

This fine late Baroque church was built in the 18th century and was consecrated to Sant’Antonio Abate. As well as the beautiful façade, note the a pre-existing 16th century bell tower. The interior contains remarkable works of art, such as the marble altars by Cimafonte, the statue “*Ecce Homo*” by Brudaglio and the panel “*Madonna del Cardellino*” by Giaquinto.

Chiesa della Maddalena

This elegant 18th century church stands out for the fine façade featuring two symmetrical bell towers.

Chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie

Rione Pescara houses the well-proportioned 16th century church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Inside are marble altars, wooden statues and four 18th century paintings.

WHAT TO DO

Nature lovers can admire a rich fauna in the municipal forest “Bosco Difesa – Serra Fontana”.

At the foot of Rocchetta is the Ofanto, the longest river in southern Italy. It is also home to the otter, shy and hard to detect, and only found in pristine habitats.



NEARBY



Monastery of Santa Maria di Giuncarico (Shrine of the Annunciation)

Originally the Benedictine monastery was connected to the abbey of Cava dei Terreni and honoured the Madonna di Giuncarico (of whom it contains a fine statue). The Basilian monks later associated more with the Annunciation. In front of the complex, friendly or loving relationships could be sealed (including same sex relationships) to receive the priest's blessing and become "Compari dell'Annunziata", Fellows of the Annunciation.

Chiesa della Madonna del Pozzo

The devotion to the Madonna of the Well is one of the most cohesive aspects of the people of Rocchetta. Her shrine stands on Serralonga hill and has a wonderful wooden statue of the Virgin.

The Fountains

Gushing ice cold water with a unique taste, countless fountains dot the area around Rocchetta. Some of them are very old, others constructed more recently: Fontana d'Uva, Fontana Nuova, Fontana r'Mocc, Fontana San Lorenzo, Fontana S. Martino, and Pescarella.

Preta Longa

At the border with Candela is this spectacular geological site connected to millenarian cults and popular beliefs.

TRIVIA



The Castle of Rocchetta is said to be haunted by the ghost of the fiancée to one of the marquises. She died the day before her wedding. By tradition, bride and groom could not see each other the day before the wedding and so now the ghost waits in vain at the altar for her groom. It is said that she appears before every marriage in the village.

Other spirits haunt Rocchetta though: **the Malombre** are the souls of people who died by accident, forced to wander the streets until the day they would have died a natural death.

EVENTS



January

Sant'Antonio Abate, the village's patron saint, is honoured on 16th and 17th January. The main attractions are the tall bonfires thanking the saint who defended Rocchetta from the barbarian invasions with fire.

Holy Week

Pasquarella is the Easter Saturday song. Sung from door to door, Easter eggs are given as gifts.

May/June

Between May and June, Rocchetta takes part in **Voler bene all'Italia** – the **National Festival of Little Big Italy**. The event promotes the treasures that characterise the many small Municipalities (Comuni) of Italy.

July

On 16th July, to honour the **Madonna del Carmine**, enjoy the **Sagra della pizza fritta**, the fried pizza festival. **Sant'Anna** is celebrated on 26th July with the traditional pilgrimage to the Monastery of Santa Maria di Giuncarico.

August

Officinema is the name of the short film festival organised by the LiberaMente cultural association which takes place on 10th August.

On 13th, there is the **Notte Bianca** (the sleepless night) and the **Sagra del cinghiale**, the wild boar festival.

Festa della Madonna del Pozzo: on 15th August, the faithful pick up the fine statue of the Madonna and take Her on an evocative night pilgrimage through the fields lit by the burning stubble, where San Rocco awaits Her. After the celebrations, on 26th, early in the morning the effigy of the Madonna is returned to her place.

The **fire of the Castle**: the Palio on 23rd August is a competition between the four districts of the village, with a medieval dinner and a spectacular castle siege.

The **Feast of the Patron Saint** takes place on 24th, 25th and 26th August with religious rites, entertainment and fireworks.

September

On 10th September, Rocchetta celebrates literature and an illustrious fellow citizen with the **"Mariateresa Di Lascia" Literary Prize**.



We set off in the morning, with packs of rags and bread, an entire procession of fellow villagers all moving at different speeds, dragging children and the old in an opaque silence.

Rosina, my wet nurse, felt she had to sing because that was the way to the celebration of the Madonna of the Well. The priest would sing too: "Miiira il tuo popolo, beeella Signooora, che pieeen di giubiloo oggi ti onooora". (Look at your people, oh fine Lady, who today, filled with joy, honour you).

— extract from "Passaggio in ombra" by Mariateresa Di Lascia, Feltrinelli, 1995

WHERE TO EAT

Farmstead "Scotellaro" 

tel. +39 347 7324178

Hotel Restaurant Pizzeria

"Al Castello" 

tel. +39 0885 654037

Trattoria Pizzeria

"L'Antica Osteria" 

tel. +39 0885 654575

Ugo Pub

tel. +39 348 2805480

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.rocchettasantantonio.fg.it

tel. +39 0885 654007 - www.rochettaturismo.it

Local Tourist Office: Corso Giuseppe Piccolo, 21

tel. +39 349 5591814

LiberaMente Association:

tel. +39 0885 841292 / +39 347 2518300

www.liberaamenteonline.com

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B "Giulimà" 

tel. +39 349 4687245

www.giulima.it

Holidays House "Malvarosa"

tel. +39 0885 654110

+39 335 1409711  

B&B "Rocchetta"

tel. +39 3317576309

www.bebrocchetta.it

Hotel Restaurant Pizzeria

"Al Castello" 

tel. +39 0885 654037

Monastery of Santa Maria
di Giuncarico (Shrine of
Annunciation)

tel. +39 347 2518300



The name “Rosito” appears for the first time in an 8th century Longobard diploma and seems to derive from the copious presence of wild roses that grow here. Its history, like that of other villages, is a line of one rule after another. After the Normans, Jacques D’Assimial became feudal lord, followed by Bartolomeo I of Capua, whose family ruled until 1640 when the fiefdom became the property of the Brancia family. The works

that make the village truly beautiful are, indeed, owed to the Di Capua, and include the construction of the **Marquis Palace** and the **Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta**. Roseto which was added to over the centuries by the work of the local stonemasons, who decorated buildings and portals with precious bas-reliefs, all of which has helped the village make it one of “**The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy**”.

WHAT TO SEE

Chiesa Madre Santa Maria Assunta

A majestic building that used to be isolated but is now “leaning against” houses built at a later age. The entry balustrade with carved panels, the stone font and the two marble altars of the Cappellone are beautiful.

Chiesa and Oratorio di San Filippo Neri

This small house in Piazza Vecchia became a church in the 17th century. It stands out for the votive niche dedicated to the Saint and for the balcony from which bread and vegetables are thrown on 26th May. Next to it is the Arco della Terra, the main entrance to the village.

O.SE.AP. – Observatory of Apennines ecology

An eco-museum with dioramas that reconstruct the natural habitat of the Monti Dauni, as well as a research centre, with state-of-the-art equipment to study the typical features of a region that is home to unique flora and fauna, such as the Monti Dauni wolf, which the Environmental Experience Centre, the first in Apulia, was set up to study.

Chiesa di San Nicola

This fine stone church has a richly decorated interior and two stone altars.

Palazzo del Marchese

The Marquis Palace, which was built by Bartolomeo III of Capua between the 13th and 14th century, dominates the Piazza Vecchia with its imposing round keep. Being privately owned, it can only be enjoyed from outside.

The Fountains

The Roseto fountains are particularly interesting. The Fontana Vecchia is from the Bourbon period and has been the public washhouse for centuries. The Fontana del Titolo on the other hand displays the mastery of Roseto’s stonemasons. The Fontana Grande of Corso Roma is also very beautiful.

The Artisan’s House

Visit this small museum to discover the tools of 19th century craftsmanship.

Straw oven

The ancient Roseto Straw Oven is still operating. Discover its secrets and taste its delicious baked goods.

WHAT TO DO

Organise and participate in Orienteering routes and competitions in Roseto by contacting the Monti Dauni **Orienteering** Association.



Educational water mill workshop

Roseto offers various opportunities **nature** lovers, such as the Iscatare Forest and wetland, Bosco Vetruscelli, Bosco del Toppo del Brigante, Monte Saraceno and Monte Cornacchia with the Frassati Path.

If you are close to Roseto in the summer, why not relax in the Municipal **swimming pool**, near the Water Mill and immersed in lush vegetation.



NEARBY



Water Mill

The area around Roseto is dotted with springs and streams, and a number of mills. One of these has been restored and still holds the millstones and milling tools, as well as implements and furnishings from peasant life.

TRIVIA



Concetta "non me la fido"

You have not truly been to Roseto until you have visited the tiny, simple house that, it is said, was home to a certain Concetta, a woman disinclined to work, as suggested by the nickname the Rosetani gave her.

Tuleje e Mmaleje

The stonemasons' tradition has always featured arts and crafts in Roseto Valfortore. So it's worth pausing to look at the façades and portals of the aristocratic palaces to discover the coats of arms and ornamental motifs, all made with the local stone. Definitely worth seeing are the two bas-reliefs that resemble the covers of a sarcophagus, set horizontally in the façade of the palace above the amphitheatre, in via Sottosanti.

EVENTS



January

The closest Saturday to 17th January is when the town celebrates **Sant'Antonio Abate** with traditional bonfires.

May

On the first Sunday, the **Madonna Incoronata** is celebrated: the peasant procession should not be missed because it includes animals.

San Filippo Neri became patron saint in 1625 and is celebrated on 26th May with a great procession. In the nights of the novena, children walk around the village singing the saint's song and carrying the "cappelline".

June

The traditional **fair of typical products and craftsmanship** takes place on the last Sunday in the month.

August

The summer black truffle, the *scorzona*, has become one of the symbols of Roseto Valfortore's fine food (the other is honey). During the **Sagra del tartufo** (second Sunday in the month) you can taste the many specialities made with this precious tuber.



Bas-relief

WHERE TO EAT

Hotel Restaurant "Miravalle"

tel. +39 0881 594415
+39 345 9707718

Bar Restaurant Pizzeria

"del Corso" di Pinto Filippo
tel. +39 0881 594269
+39 347 1263495

Pizzeria "The Garden of Eden" (Lo Chalet)

tel. +39 0881 594278
+39 3292920179

Trattoria "Rose and Crown"

tel. +39 0881 594492
+39 340 5943892

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B "Da Nonna Elisa"

tel. +39 328 3272953
+39 0881 594268
www.danonnaelisa.it

B&B "La Terrazza sul Bosco"

tel. +39 328 6640245
+39 0881 594255
www.laterrazzasulbosco.it

Locanda of "Tuleje e Mmaleje"

tel. +39 333 8521378
Hotel Restaurant "Miravalle"
tel. +39 0881 594415
+39 345 9707718

B&B "Al Borgo Antico"

tel. +39 0881 594269
+39 347 1263495
www.alborgoantico.net

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.rosetovalfortore.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 594610

Local Tourist Office: tel. +39 320 3679331

O.SE.AP.: tel. +39 347 1820997

Monti Dauni Orienteering:

tel. +39 340 6143006

Straw oven:

tel. +39 366 5464992



The origins of San Marco la Catola are not clear. The most credited version is that the village was founded by some crusaders on their way home from Jerusalem with Frederick II. The bas-relief of **the Madonna of Jehoshaphat** in the church annexed to the Capuchin monastery, of late Byzantine style, would seem to confirm this. But another theory says that the hill upon which San

Marco sits was settled by people from Montecorvino who fled the Normans. We do know that the name comes from San Marco the Evangelist, to whom an ancient chapel is dedicated, and from the La Catola stream nearby. The fiefdom of San Marco has been known since the Aragonese rule. In 1656, it passed into the hands of the Pignatelli family, who held it until 1821.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa Madre di San Nicola di Mira

The church was built between 1605 and 1611. The greater altar, made by the Caserta school, and the balustrade surrounding it, are especially noteworthy. The current bell tower was built in 1910 after the earlier one, with a colourful ceramic tile dome, was knocked down.

The Duke's Palace

Now in private hands, the Duke's Palace (or Castle) was built in the 14th century and is in the upper part of the village.

La Cappella di San Marco Evangelista

Inside the Chiesa Madre is the former Duke's Chapel annexed to the Palace. It dates to the 12th century and still features the original portal.

WHAT TO DO



The oldest part of the village grew around the **Duke's Palace**, from which dozens of picturesque alleyways branch out, often featuring large steps, called "**cinant**".

As well as the picturesque corners of the historic centre, the area surrounding San Marco has plenty to offer: follow the **la Catola stream** to find the celebrated **Bridge of Thirteen Arches**, an engineering masterpiece dating to the mid-1800s in stone and bricks.

An interesting experience is to walk on the **Tratturo Regio** (Royal Sheep Trail) **Castel di Sangro – Lucera**.

NEARBY



Capuchin Friars Monastery – Madonna of Jehoshaphat Shrine

The 16th century church was built on a former abbey and holds the Byzantine wooden bas-relief of the Madonna of Jehoshaphat which, according to legend, had belonged to the Christians freed in Jerusalem by Frederick II. The building houses an interesting library, containing ancient religious texts.

A young theology student, later to be known as Padre Pio, spent a short time here. Nowadays the Monastery houses young friars in their path of spiritual training.

San Cristoforo Forest

The forest offers a wide variety of leisure opportunities for lovers of nature and the great outdoors. The rich flora and the many animal species that inhabit are easily accessible thanks to the picnic areas and the botanical path from Locanda Greentime. If you can, stop at night in June to watch the thousands of fireflies.



Giostra della Jaletta Below: view

EVENTS



March/April

Halfway through **Lent**, San Marco celebrates the passage from winter to spring with a traditional fête organised by the cultural association "A crap z'è sciot" (The goat has melted) and whose main star is the "**A Vecchij**" puppet (The Old Lady). The old lady is carried around the village on a wheelbarrow accompanied by folk music and songs, traditional dances and tasting typical dishes. At the end of the route, the puppet is dismembered and gifts are taken from the body.

June

San Marco is devoted to **San Antonio from Padua**, for whom bonfires are lit along the streets. At least 13 must be visited in devotion. The final bonfire in front of the Convento dei Frati Cappuccini is beautiful.

August

The patron saint is honoured over two days. On 19th, **San Liberato Martire**, the patron saint of San Marco, is celebrated with the traditional procession through the streets. On 20th, is the **Giostra della Jaletta**, a game that involves the seven village districts (*U Giardin, Port'abbasc, Vall Saccone, Port'ammont, Via Nov d'sott, Sant Laurenz, Stanca Cavall*) who challenge each other to sticking a sharp wooden stick into a wooden bucket filled with water hanging between two balconies.

October

On 4th October, **San Francesco** is honoured.



WHERE TO EAT

Farmstay "Avellaneta" - Educational Farm 
tel. +39 0881 556115
+39 347 2749067
www.avellaneta.it

Restaurant Pizzeria "Locanda Greentime" 
tel. +39 333 3346671
www.locandaboscocosancristoforo.it
B&B Restaurant "Dolci Sfizi" 
tel. +39 0881 550896
+39 328 9174119

WHERE TO SLEEP

"Locanda Greentime" 
tel. +39 333 3346671
B&B Restaurant "Dolci Sfizi" 
tel. +39 0881 550896
+39 328 9174119

Farmstay "Avellaneta" 
tel. +39 0881 556115
+39 347 274 9067
www.avellaneta.it

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.sanmarcolacatola.fg.it
tel. +39 0881 556016
Local Tourist Office: tel. +39 333 6093980
Giostra della Jaletta Association:
www.giostradellajaletta.eu



One of the most striking landscapes in Daunia is the backdrop to Sant'Agata di Puglia, the **Loggia delle Puglie**, whose thick web of houses and alleyways clings to the side of a mountain, on the peak of which is the imposing Castle. The Romans controlled the passage to Via Appia and built the "**Castrum Artemisium**" fort, named for the goddess Artemis, which,

in 592 AD, became Sant'Agata. With the advent of the Longobards first and the Normans after, the castle was extended, as was the village. The village layout (an upside down fan) is enriched by the fine palazzos that the noble families built between the 1500s and the 1700s. The undisputed beauty of Sant'Agata and its surroundings have earned it the "**Orange Flag**" by the Italian Touring Club.

WHAT TO SEE

Imperial Castle

This fine Castle overlooks the village and overlooks a vast expanse. The Longobard walls are well preserved along with the signs of its transformation over the centuries from defensive stronghold to noble residence. The sculpted entry portal is very beautiful, as is the frescoed Chapel, dedicated to Saint Agatha at the behest of Charles I of Anjou. The views from the towers are spectacular.

Chiesa Matrice di San Nicola

The original church dates to the Norman age, but was rebuilt in the 1500s. The interior is decorated with stuccoes and holds precious items, such as the Nativity by Stefano da Putignano, and religious depictions, such as those in the wooden triptych from 1606. The crypt contains encaustic paintings on the Passion of Christ: the characters depicted have faces of some Santagatesi.

Chiesa di Sant'Andrea the Apostle

The oldest church of Sant'Agata (7th century) was renovated during the Renaissance and extended in the 1800s. It features Romanesque exteriors and an interesting interior, particularly for the frescoes done after World War II by Enzo Liberti.

Chiesa di San Michele Arcangelo

The original building was built under the Longobard rule but was destroyed in the 1930 earthquake. It was entirely rebuilt with its annexed bell tower featuring mullioned two and three-light windows. It holds a triptych from 1400 attributed to the Beato Angelico school.

Parish Museum

A small religious art museum in the premises next to the Chiesa Madre crypt.

The Patrician Palaces

Sant'Agata is peppered with beautiful mansions whose elegant façades are adorned with carved stone portals and coats of arms: Palazzo Capria, Palazzo De Marinis – Calcagno, Palazzo Vinciguerra, Palazzo Volpe, Palazzo Barbato, Palazzo Torraca – Rosati.

Frantoio Nova

This beautiful 17th century underground olive press is not to be missed. The millstone was worked by donkeys and mules and was in use until 1927. This unusual monument to peasant industrial archaeology has been restored thanks to the Local Tourist Office.



NEARBY



Roman Bridge

This bridge used to span the Calaggio stream (but it was later diverted) and the stone blocks of the original pylons have been preserved. It is thought the bridge was on the road travelled by Horatius in 37 BC on his journey, narrated in Satire V, from Rome to Brindisi.

Ruins of the Convento di Sant'Antuono

The imposing building was set up as a military and post station in the Roman age and became a monastery in the middle ages. The dedication to Sant'Antonio Abate would lead to the assumption that the Teutonic Order of Hospitallers were set up here.

Preta Santulinze

The Brigands' rock is a huge sandstone cliff. On the top are hollows which were used by the bandits as units of measurement to divide the spoils of their raids.

WHAT TO DO



The special position and geographic features, make Sant'Agata one of the most evocative places in Apulia. It is certainly worth discovering the medieval village with the stone houses and portals bearing the coats of arms that make up the "Urban Park of Stone Works".

Not far from the village, and clearly visible from it, is **Monte Croce**, named after the cross installed on its summit at the turn of the 20th century. The forest covering the summit is ideal for a walk in nature and a short distance away is the Cesine Forest, another perfect destination for excursions.

Giuseppe Rosa and Filomena

Giuseppe Schiavone was born to a peasant family in Sant'Agata. As a soldier he fought to defend the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and refused to join the Savoy Army. He went into hiding and, as luck would have it, he fell in with the band of Carmine Crocco, who had become a brigand. Giuseppe would soon become known for his daring deeds, taking part in the slaughter of 20 National Guard soldiers in Orsara. Giuseppe's downfall, though, was women: whilst seeing Rosa Giuliani, he started to see Filomena Pennacchio. Betrayal begot betrayal and thus Giuseppe was captured at the hand of a woman seeking revenge for his infidelity. He was taken close to Melfi and executed by firing squad. Though not before he managed to give his last farewell to his Filomena.

EVENTS



February

The village's patron saint, **Saint Agatha** is celebrated on 5th February, she was martyred by having her breasts cut off. That is why Saint Agatha's breasts, the typical breast-shaped unleavened breads, are distributed to the population by the "Agatine", girls wearing the Saint's tunic and knocking on people's doors to donate the blessed bread.

May

May is the month of **Vicolorando – alleyways and colours**, an impromptu painting competition, where artists depict the beauty of the views offered by Sant'Agata.

August

On 13th August the village fills with stands for the **Typical Products Festival**.

San Rocco, San Lorenzo and Sant'Agata are celebrated on 15th and 16th with religious rites as well as entertainment.

19th August sees the re-enactment dedicated to **Agatone**, a skilled warlord, part history and part legend, and whose life is linked to the village. Flag carriers and jugglers animate the cortège, often with the participation of well-known personalities, followed by evening celebrations.

November

On 1st November, traditions and flavours merge in the **Sagra dei Ciccecuòtte**, a typical cake made with ingredients from peasant cuisine. An ancient tradition connected to the cult of the dead, enriched by delicious roasted chestnuts, bruschetta seasoned with Sant'Agata oil and other typical products.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant "La Cantina della Canonica"

tel. +39 0881 984026
+39 340 2962065

Restaurant

"La Locanda Di Paolo"

tel. +39 0881 984914
+39 340 3431507

Restaurant Pizzeria "Piper"

tel. +39 0881 984090
+39 347 6879178

Farmstay "Tenuta Sant'Arcangelo"

tel. +39 0881 984499
+39 340 6992456

www.tenutasantarcangelo.it

Pub Pizzeria "Il Brigante"

tel. +39 0881 984275
+39 347 6626405

Pizzeria "Agatone"

tel. +39 340 2889434
+39 347 9494052



Imperial castle

WHERE TO SLEEP

Farmstay "Tenuta Sant'Arcangelo" 

tel. +39 0881 984499

+39 340 6992456

www.tenutasantarcangelo.it

Boarding House "Piper" 

tel. +39 0881 984090

+39 347 6879178

CONTACTS

Town Hall:

www.comune.santagatadipuglia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 984007

Local Tourist Office: Vico Farmacia, 8

tel. +39 0881 984433

PREVIEW





Troia is a fascinating medieval village and the keeper of treasures gifted by history. Legend has it that its origins are to be attributed to Diomedes. Turned into **Aeccæ** in the Roman age, it was a prominent settlement, located along the road network that connected Rome to the Orient. Destroyed, as it is said, by Constantius in the 7th century AD, it was rebuilt in the 11th century

as a Byzantine stronghold. Under the new name of **Troja** it hosted as many as 4 Councils in 40 years, spanning the 11th and 12th centuries. The village's history is therefore indissolubly connected with that of the Church, which left an indelible mark in the village's art and architecture. The symbol of the religious past is the beautiful rose window of the Apulian Romanesque jewel, the Cathedral.

WHAT TO SEE



Basilica Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta

This 11th century masterpiece blends Romanesque stylistic features with Byzantine elements and is famous for its rose window. Unique, it features 11 rays, mullions outlining as many segments of fretwork stone, with each decoration being different. The façade is enriched by allegoric, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic sculptures and by plant decorations. The two bronze doors by Oderisio da Benevento are beautiful: the *Porta della Prosperità* (Door of Prosperity) and the *Porta della Libertà* (Door of Freedom). The latter represents the village's epic resistance to the siege laid by Ruggero II. The interior features beautiful columns, a wonderful stone pulpit carved in bas-relief and frescoes dedicated to the Virgin.

Museum of the Treasure of the Troja Cathedral

The museum is in the 18th century Palazzo of the former Episcopal Seminary. It displays many precious works: over 500 parchments, among which is one bearing the seal of Frederick II; illuminated manuscripts; the 12th century *Misale Trojanum* with Gregorian chants; the silver paraments of the Eucharistic Mystery; the silver busts of the village's patron saints; ivory caskets from the Byzantine era; a chiselled silver chalice attributed to the Cellini school; but above all, the three *Exultet* containing the texts and songs announcing Easter.

MED Diocesan Ecclesiastic Museum

The former Benedictine Convent houses the Diocesan Museum which holds liturgical furnishings and vestments, medieval stone items, Neapolitan school papier-mâché sculptures, statues and canvasses of significant artistic value, among which the "San Giovanni di Dio" by Luca Giordano stands out.

Chiesa di San Basilio Magno

The oldest church in Troia has proto-Romanesque origins and a restrained, austere appearance, despite the Baroque-age alterations, which can be seen on the façade. The interior has three naves, punctuated by ancient columns with beautiful capitals, supporting arches and cross vaults. At the bottom is the apse in bare stone with a Renaissance baptismal font.

Chiesa di San Francesco

The 18th century church features a simple exterior and Rococo style interior. Among the decorations, the beautiful wooden ceiling by Michele Calitri stands out.

Chiesa dell'Addolorata

The Baroque Church which used to be dedicated to San Benedetto, has preserved the 18th century decorations, the frescoes and an altar piece by the Trojan Giovanni

Petruzzi and the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows by Giacomo Colombo.

Chiesa di San Domenico

The Church had a 14th century bell tower with onion dome, which collapsed in the 1930 earthquake and was replaced by the bell gable with three arches. The interior houses the fine canvas depicting the "Elevation to Heaven of Saint Benedict" which originally decorated the ceiling of the Chiesa dell'Addolorata.

Palazzo D'Avalos – Town Museum

This fine 17th century Palazzo houses the Town Hall and local museum, which holds, among other items from various ages, the 2nd century A.D. sepulchral slab of Rubria Marcella, bearing the bas-relief of a sow with seven piglets (the image was the village's first coat of arms); the beautiful sarcophagus of Saint Secondino, the bishop in the 6th century; the paving stones from the Via Traiana

found under the road surface of Corso Regina Margherita.

Palaces of the Nobility

Troia shows off its many patrician buildings, such as the **Palazzo dei Gesuiti** (or Tricarico), whose façade is decorated in diamond-pointed rustication, and features a window with two lions from a Benedictine monastery; and **Palazzo San Domenico**, which was built on the ruins of the castle destroyed by Frederick II and once a monastery. The façades and courtyards of **Palazzo Antinozzi**, **Palazzo Siliceo**, and **Palazzo Varo** are stunning.

The Bishop's Palace

The fine building by Vinvatelli houses the episcopal Curia, the Episcopal Archive, the Chapter Archive and all the deeds and documents from the former Diocese of Troia (1022-1986), as well as various artistic treasures such as the canvas paintings by Francesco Solimena and "The Flagellation" attributed to Parmigianino.

NEARBY



Vaccarizza Archaeological site

A very important area in Troia's history. Many items have been unearthed dating to the 9th-12th centuries and yet there are certainly still many more treasures from the past to be discovered.

TROJAN TITBITS



Titbit #1 – Encamped with his troops by the Guelph village, Frederick II demanded food supplies from it. The Trojans' only answer was to send him stale bread, onions and vinegar... three years went by and the Emperor took revenge by razing Troja to the ground.

TO TASTE



Nero di Troia

A native vine gives rise to a bright ruby red wine with a great personality and strongly typical taste, commanding the attention of international oenology thanks to the fruity notes and marked flavour.

The Passionata

For those with a sweet tooth, this almond and ricotta delicacy is not to be missed.



Titbit #2 – During the skirmishes between the Valois and the Hapsburgs (1527), the village offered asylum to the Spanish soldiers. Besieged by the French troops, the Trojans helped Carlo V flee, making fun of the French. As an eternal reminder of the cunning shown by the village, the Emperor modified its coat of arms: the sow with the 7 piglets was replaced by 5 snakes leaping out of a golden amphora.

Titbit #3 – Antonio Salandra, an eminent Trojan, was Prime Minister between 1914 and 1916 and went down in history for declaring war against Austria, effectively bringing Italy into World War I. The story goes that some parliamentarians reproached him by calling him the "illustrious son of Troia" (the Italian word "troia" means "sow" – hence the village's original coat of arms – but there is a vulgar meaning which is more like whore) and he replied, "what was for me a home town, for you is your mother!".

EVENTS



Holy Week Rites

Re-enactment of the Passion of Christ

In the afternoon of Palm Sunday, a large number of young men and women dress up in period costume and enact the Sacred Performance of the Passion and Death of Christ.

Penitential procession of the Chains

In the morning of **Good Friday**, five penitents, dressed and hooded in a white tunic, drag a heavy wooden cross. Announced by the sound of chains tied to their bare feet, and that of the trocchiola, a typical instrument, they walk on a lengthy penitential itinerary, interrupted only by pauses for prayer at the village's churches.



Penitential procession of the Chains. Following page: detail of Bronze Door, Cathedral

Procession of the Mysteries

This spectacular procession of Baroque and Spanish origin, evoking the Stations of the Cross of the Lord, takes place in the evening of **Good Friday**. Five statuary groups are carried in procession from the Cathedral along the main streets. They depict the Capture, the Crown of Thorns, the Flagellation, the First Fall and the Crucifixion or Calvary. They are followed by the statues of the Deposition of Christ and Grieving Mary.

Procession of the Kiss

This rite takes place on **Easter** Sunday morning. The statue of Our Lady sets off from the Chiesa di San Domenico. The statue of the Saviour leaves the Chiesa di San Francesco. They meet in the square in front of the Cathedral and there, they kiss. The two statues are drawn close then apart, twice. The third time, the Risen Christ statue bows to Kiss the Madonna's feet.

July

The patron saints (St. Eleutherius, St. Pontian, St. Secundinus, St. Urban, St. Anastasius and St. Anzia) are celebrated on 18th, 19th and 20th July with religious

rites, entertainment and fireworks.

July also sees the **Regional Conference on Troia Grapes**, followed by shows and a Wine and Food itinerary through the streets.

August

At the start of the month, the AttivaMentis Association organises the **Troia Music Fest**, which showcases Daunia music as well as music from the Apulia Region. The first ten days of August see the **Troia Theatre Festival**, coordinated by the Troia Youth Union. Theatre, dance, music and poetry are hosted in beautiful locations in the old parts of the village and the event includes workshops and competitions.

The Local Tourist Office organises the traditional **Sagra della Cotta Cotta**: a festival celebrating the traditional dish of beef tripe.

December

On the day of the Immaculate Conception (8th December), Troia enters the Christmas spirit with the **Christmas Street Market** and the **Sagra di Pizz Fritt**, the Fried Pizza festival.

WHERE TO EAT

Tavern "Fra due Terre"

tel. +39 0881 977354
+39 348 4734023

Wine Bar

"diVino – Osteria dei Sensi"

tel. +39 0881 970171
+39 347 3910782

www.divinosteria.it

Tavern "Da Maria Neve"

tel. +39 0881 979476
+39 349 5793078

Restaurant

"Agli Archi Di Villa Maria"

tel. +39 0881 976684
+39 393 0529502

www.relaisvillamaria.com

Farmstay "Farmstead Giuntoli"

tel. +39 0881 970154
+39 349 7572601

www.fattoriagiuntoli.it 

Restaurant Pizzeria "D'Avalos"

tel. +39 0881 970067
+39 331 2107157

www.ristorantedavalos.it 

Restaurant Pizzeria

"Cavalieri di Malta"

tel. +39 348 0519569

Farmstay "San Paolo"

tel. +39 0881 976843
+39 340 8765706

Trattoria "Alba d'Oro"

tel. +39 0881 979615
+39 334 1265580

Restaurant

"Taverna della Corte"

tel. +39 0881 970192
+39 391 4624206

Farmstay "Pirro"

tel. +39 349 1723891



WHERE TO SLEEP

Boarding House "Bora"

tel. +39 328 3131736
www.bora-troia.it

"Svegliarsi nei Borghi"

tel. +39 349 8305477
www.svegliarsineiborghi.it

Farmstay "Pirro"

tel. +39 349 172 3891

Farmstay "San Paolo"

tel. +39 0881 976843
+39 340 8765706

B&B "Mali"

tel. +39 349 3683651
www.bbmali.weebly.com

B&B Villa Cristina

tel. +39 0881 970329
+39 349 3640300

www.villacristinabb.com

B&B "Il vicioletto"

tel. +39 0881 970799
+39 347 2292963

www.bebilvicioletto.it

B&B "Stella"

tel. +39 0881 979587
+39 340 3010630

www.bb-stella.it

Piccola Ricettività "Montaratro"

tel. +39 0881 542885
+39 349 3649568

ristorantemasseriamontaratro.it

Boarding House "Alba d'oro"

tel. +39 0881 970425

Farmstay "La Masseria"

tel. +39 330 523389
[agriturismobeccia.wix.com/
lamasseria](http://agriturismobeccia.wix.com/lamasseria)

B&B "Ai 4 venti"

tel. +39 0881 977182
+39 347 5387963

www.aiquattroventi.net

Hospital del Cammino

tel. +39 393 8917725
www.camminacammini.com



CONTACTS

TownHall:www.comune.troia.fg.it

tel. +39 0881 978433

IAT – Tourist Information

Office: Piazza Giovanni XIII

tel. +39 0881 970020

Basilica Cathedral:

tel. +39 0881 970064

open to visitors every day

Local Tourist Office:

Via lamele, 6

tel. +39 345 1533487

www.prolocotroia.it

Town Museum:

Via Regina Margherita, 84

tel. +39 0881 978418

Open by booking

Museum of the Cathedral's

Treasure, at the Episcopal

Seminary:

tel. +39 349 0632831

Open Tuesdays and Fridays

17:30-20:30. Extraordinary

opening is possible for groups of

at least 15 people.

ACT Monti Dauni (cultural and tourist association):

tel. +39 347 2668932

Terzo Millennio Association:

tel. +39 377 1608096

+39 340 3723829

Opening by booking of the Diocesan Museum, the Chiesa di San Domenico and the Bishop's Palace.

MED Ecclesiastic Diocesan

Museum, at former

Benedictine Nuns Monastery:

Piazza Giovanni XIII

tel. +39 0881 520882 int. 6

Open Saturday 18:30-20:30;

Sunday 10:30-13:00 and

18:30-20:30. Open other days

on booking by groups.

For horseback outings for

groups and on booking:

Farmhouse Restaurant "Pirro"



It was founded with the name of *Uluria* around 50 BC by the *Uluri* who lived near caves. The village was later occupied by the *Apuli* who allied with the *Romans* to defeat the *Sammites*. The current name apparently derives from “**Vultur**”, the ancient name of the *Libeccio* south-westerly wind. The village layout reveals its

medieval past, when it was an important administrative centre, lying on the main thoroughfare, as well as being a Bishop’s seat until 1818. The architecture contains hints to its many past rulers: from the *Swabians* to the *Anjou*, to the noble families of the *Carafa*, *Gonzaga*, *Caracciolo* and *Pignatelli*.

WHAT TO SEE



Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta

The construction of the Romanesque cathedral dates to the 12th century. The original design entailed annexing the Santa Maria church, the traces of which are still visible in the apse. The exterior features two-colour materials and a fine bell tower which houses three bronze bells attributed to the Avignon factory. The majestic internal columns protect works of great artistic value, such as the larger altar with 18th century marble antependium and the Baroque wooden choir stalls.

The Duke’s Palace

The imposing building dates to the 16th century and was built on a fortress. Over the centuries it took on the appearance and function of a noble residence for the Caracciolo family.

Chiesa del Carmelo

The little church dates to the second half of the 18th century and was the seat of the Brotherhood of the same name. It was built at the behest of the Campolattaro family.

WHAT TO DO



The small village contains interesting traces of the families that ruled: lose yourself in the streets and alleyways to discover the mix of religious and patrician architecture. It is worthwhile pausing at the **Ulizzo Fountain** and the

Palazzo Cairelli (formerly **Pignatelli**), which was the Bishop’s seat.

Nature lovers can venture into the **Bosco di S. Antonio** forest, or to the area called “*Difesa dei Corvi*”, “Crow Defence”, where thick vegetation thrives among sulphur springs. Take some lunch and enjoy the picnic facilities. Any visit should also include a stop at the **Gianpaolo stream**, a waterway and series of natural waterfalls.

The Volturara territory is crossed by the **Royal Castel di Sangro – Lucera Sheep trail**: from Crocella di Motta, it goes through the valley of the La Catola stream, and from Campolattaro to Monte Sant’Angelo.

NEARBY



Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Immersed in verdant vegetation, this white building was built in the 16th century and dedicated to the village’s patron saint at the behest of Prince Bartolomeo Caracciolo. It holds the precious wooden statue of the Madonna, which the devout believe can grant miracles.

Campolattaro tavern and mill

The tavern, originally a place of worship, is along one of the tracks that cross Daunia to the Sacred Mountain of the Arcangelo Michele sul Gargano. In medieval times, it was an inn for pilgrims and, more recently, a post station for the transhumant shepherds and their flocks.



Ulizzo Fountain. Above: Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta

EVENTS



January

On 17th January the traditional **Bonfires of Sant'Antonio Abate** are lit in the streets.

May

The patron saint festival of **Maria Santissima della Sanità** takes place on the first Sunday in May. The village's patron saint is celebrated with a procession that takes its statue from the shrine to the village, covered in the votive gifts from the faithful.

October

The **Fiera di San Luca**, whose origins are truly ancient, and according to tradition was started by Frederick II, takes place on 18th October. The great event is historically devoted to trading cattle. The Sagra delle Anguille (Eel Festival) takes place in the evening to commemorate the presence of eel sellers at the fair.

CONTACTS

Town Hall: www.comune.volturnaraappula.fg.it
tel. +39 0881 557005



Volturino probably owes its name to **Volturnus**, the Roman god of the south-easterly wind (Sirocco). The ancient village was one of the five farmsteads under **Montecorvino**. It survived while only the names remain of the other four: Monte Sambuco, La Umara, Santa Lucia, Tortorano (which today give their name to four districts). A witness to the clashes between the Aragonese and Angevin, its population

increased thanks to the refugees from Montecorvino. It was several times a fiefdom of the Carafa, who were thrown out by the inhabitants in 1583, of the Orsini, the Caracciolo and the Montalto. It was the scene of bloody banditry in the early 1860s but today is a very pleasant village that proudly displays the marks of its past and offers remarkable views on the Monti Dauni and the plateau.

WHAT TO SEE



Chiesa Badiale di Santa Maria Assunta

The church has 14th century origins, although its structure was modified with extensions and reconstructions at the turn of the 20th century. On the architrave on the left side entrance, in a niche, is the 16th century statue of the Madonna of the Arch with Child and the bas-relief depicting the 12 apostles; inside is the painting of Santa Maria Assunta.

Chiesa di San Domenico di Guzman

The building dates to the 12th century and was originally dedicated to San Domenico di Sora. The exposed stonework façade has a small central rose window and a wide portal. The single nave interior has a medieval stone altar, the canvas painting of the Virgin of Pompei and the statues of San Domenico and dell'Addolorata.

Chiesa di San Francesco

The small 19th century church has a clean design façade embellished by a small stone portal and a bell gable on the middle top part. The interior holds an ancient marble altar and the statues of San Francesco, San Giuseppe and San Pietro the Apostle.

The Fountains

The Fontana Vecchia welcomes visitors at the entrance

to the village, with its 19th century portico structure that protects a wash tub; the Fontana della Croce, dating to the turn of the 20th century is in bronze and features art nouveau decorations depicting mythical figures.

Baronial Palace

Featuring a façade and portal, the building was the residence of the Montalto family, as can be seen by the coats of arms. Today it is owned by the Goduti family.

NEARBY



Montecorvino archaeological site

Montecorvino was part of the villages built by the Byzantines in the 11th century to defend their possessions. Razed to the ground in 1137 by the Norman King Ruggero II, it was rebuilt only to be flattened again by Ladislaus II in 1332 and again in 1441 by Alphonsus of Aragon. The village was definitively abandoned after the 1452 earthquake. The ruins of a tower (the spectacular "Devil's Chair") and the cathedral are all that remain.

Serritella Shrine

The Church of Santa Maria di Serritella is the only building that is still standing from the ancient mansion of the Templars. It houses a fine cedar wood statue depicting the Madonna and Child, of unknown date.

WHAT TO DO



The forests surrounding Volturino are of special natural interest: Bosco Marano, Bosco Mezzana and Parco Ricconi all feature rivulets and streams.

TRIVIA



The rue and the sporti

A walk around the village holds pleasant surprises, such as discovering the “rue”: the alleyways with herringbone-patterned flights of steps, sheltering from the wind which often blows on Volturino; or spotting the “sporti”: connections between the old buildings that had a defensive function in the event of an attack.

EVENTS



February/March

The beginning of Lent is celebrated in Volturino with the **Quarantana**, a puppet of an old lady spinning and made from straw and rags. It is hung along Corso Vittorio Emanuele and a potato with feathers in it is put on the spindle. One feather is removed every Sunday until the last one announces Easter that has arrived.

May

The first Sunday of the month sees the **Festa della Madonna della Serritella**. Worship for the Virgin dates to the start of the 12th century, when the Knights Templar introduced it. The Virgin of Serritella became patron saint of Volturino in 1774 and, to this day, the celebrations – after Holy Mass officiated at the Shrine – involve a parade of allegorical floats.

In the first ten days of the month, enjoy a springtime delicacy, thanks to the **tender fava bean festival**.

September

During the **Feast of the Madonna of the Serritella** (8th and 9th September), the statue of the Madonna is taken in a procession along the streets. The celebrations include a street market and musical performances. On 21st September, the village hosts the traditional **Fiera di San Matteo**, which used to be very important because it was when cattle were blessed.

November/December

The **Oil Festival** takes place between the two months, celebrating the new oil.



Chiesa S. Francesco

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurant “Il Balconcino”

tel. +39 389 9866402

Restaurant Pizzeria

“Villa Bianca”

tel. +39 0881 550715

+39 324 6103610

www.ristorantevillabianca.eu

Restaurant Hotel

“La Balconata”

tel. +39 0881 550118

www.ristorantelabalconata.com

Refreshment spot at

Creatura Lucia

tel. +39 0881 550463

+39 329 2532503

WHERE TO SLEEP

B&B “Planisium”

tel. +39 320 6638340

www.bbplanisium.com

Restaurant Hotel

“La Balconata”

tel. +39 0881 550118

www.ristorantelabalconata.com

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Local Tourist Office: Via Torquato Tasso, 3

tel. +39 0881 550497

www.prolocovolturino.com

Montecorvino archaeological site:

tel. +39 0881 750334 / +39 347 3176098

www.archeologicasrl.com

MONTI DAUNI

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TRADITIONS



TRADITIONS

The roots of an ancient soul

Songs and dances

“*Purtem’l’addor’r’na storia antich*” (Bring me the smell of an ancient story) is from a song and “is the story of our life” says the author, **Benvenuto Nigro** from Deliceto, who runs the Laboratory for Studies and Research on **Orfolk** Folk Songs and Dances in Deliceto. And this is exactly what the folk **songs** and the **dances** of the Monti Dauni do. A rich tradition linked to love, but also to the rhythm and hardness of country life, they bring back ancient customs that sometimes contain still relevant pearls of wisdom: “*Munn’err’e munn’adda ess*” (the world was and the world shall be). Today there are ever more folk groups and associations that bring traditional dances and songs back into fashion for fêtes, festivals and events in the Monti Dauni.

The most unusual folk song tradition in the Monti Dauni is that of the “**Sciamboli**” – songs on the swing. Many have been collected over the last few years (“*Sciamboli e canti all’altalena*” edited by Patrizia Balestra, ed. Squilibri), especially in Volturino and Pietramontecorvino (“*Sciampale*”) and in Biccari (“*Nzàmmarucule*”). The songs feature alternating voices (woman-man or woman-woman), the lyrics are mainly octaves formed by hendecasyllables in alternating rhyme and nonsense. The particularly interesting aspect of the songs being sung on a swing, hung by a *zoca* (rope) from the hooks vaulted ceiling of peasant home or, more often, from the beam over the threshold.

The song would follow the rhythm given by the push on the swing (“*u sbalanze*”) that one of the two singers, who sat back to back, would give with their foot. The *sciambolo* is especially connected to the Carnival period but these “songs on the swing” are also love songs, for courting or rejecting, and contain puns, proverbs or even weighty invectives, like “evil eyes”.

Sciambolo in Franco-Provençal

Fàcce de nu carpène seccate

*Fàcce de nu carpène seccate
ma na ne neno
Pozze jess'accise mmammete
ca t'a cresciute te ma na nane
È dice ca j're nu giòne tante
avantate te ma na nane
Vulive fa ammone ch'mme
e n'già putute
ma na nana nana nane
Mo si'rrvate a sch'cume da
p'gnate
te ma na nana
E n'aute unu ca vai, tu si fenute
te ma na nane
Ej treie cose pe tène stànne
preparate te ma na nane
Lu fòss, i campane e lu taùte
na nana nana nana nane*

Faccia di un carpino secco

*Face of a dry hornbeam / May
your mother who raised you be
killed / People said you were a
young man full of virtue / You
wanted to make love to me and
you did not succeed / Now you
have come to the lips of the
cauldron / Try again and you're
finished / Three things await
you / The grave, the bells and
the coffin.*





Bilingual street names

Another folk tradition sees songs and ballades accompanied by the violin, mandolin, guitar or accordion, as well **serenading** a fiancée the evening before the wedding. They are still performed today, often rediscovering songs from folk tradition.

More songs and dances, but this time in the **Franco-Provençal language**, around **Celle San Vito** and **Faeto**. It was here in the 13th century, more than likely, that the military contingent sent by Charles d'Anjou to defend the castle of Crepacore, settled. From Faeto comes the all-women group "**Le Faitare**", who perform ballades on peasant culture in costumes based on those worn in the late 19th century.

Of deep anthropological interest is the folk song tradition in **Orsara di Puglia**: tales of real events and people who really existed, all set to music. The custom of putting the village gossip to music has waned over time but thanks to meticulous research, many of the words from the first half of the 20th century have been recovered by Adelina De Angelis and Elisa De Leonardis. During the day, collectively toiling in the fields (particularly during the grape and wheat harvests) the Orsaresi would sing of unaccomplished elopements, wedding nights, of how to catch a suitor. At times they reveal witty and surprisingly modern personalities, like the mother who responds to gossip about her attractive daughter: "pizzill e vase n'fann pertose!" (kissing and cuddling don't mean anything).

Folk traditions and beliefs

Peasant wisdom is handed down through sayings, proverbs and metaphors. Those connected to the tradition of the **arbëreshë language of Casalvecchio** are extremely interesting. The village was populated in the 15th century by Albanians who came to Apulia with their

Song in Franco-Provençal

Lo Gion'd'Fait i sunt tri bbèj

*Lo gion'd'Fait i sun tri bbej,
i purtunt'la spaccat'a lu ciappèj'
e s'i allunt'a dò e traj'
p'la vi du Mulì Viaj'.
L'figli'd'Fait i sun tri bbèll',
i purtunt'la spaccat'a la unnèll'
e s'i allunt'a di e traj'
p'la vi du Mulì Viaj'*

The young men of Faeto are very handsome

*The young men of Faeto are very handsome,
They sport the "spaccata" on their hats
And walk in twos and threes
On the road to the Old Mill.
The young girls of Faeto are very pretty,
They sport the "spaccata" on their skirts
And walk in twos and threes
On the road to the Old Mill.*



Festa della spiga, Panni

leader George Kastrioti Skanderberg, to fight next to Ferrante of Aragon against John of Anjou.

On the Monti Dauni we also find an extraordinary heritage of memories and rituals: sacred and profane, **superstition** and **legend**. Every village has its stories and proverbs. Some, however, are widespread and shared by several villages, as is the *scuzzmarjell/scazzamutiedd*: a pixie with hairy hands and feet who wears a red cap. The mischievous pixie wreaks havoc at night, immobilising people in their sleep and then ridiculing them. Folk lore has it that whoever removes the pixie's cap will have fortune and money, but never upset the pixie because it can be terribly vindictive.

Then, we need to be careful when a girl is born: those born on the night of 25th December are destined to a life as a *janara*, or a Diana high priestess, worshipper of the moon and witch. In some villages, though, the term means werewolf! Magic is also at work when *magiare* (sorceresses) are mentioned, while *pumpunar/pumpunel* are werewolves.

Another favourite local legend is the Toppo del Tesoro in Bosco di Tuoro (Alberona). It's all about hidden treasure. To find it, wait for a full moon, go into the forest at night, find the exact spot and declare yourself to be "Atejje" (atheist). If you're lucky the earth will open and reveal a ladder leading to the treasure.

Another belief is the Kalends: the days from 13th December to 6th January can give a sort of weather forecast for year to come. Every day corresponds to a month and the weather for that month will be based on the weather of the corresponding day. To find out more about these legends and superstitions, simply chat with the old men in the Monti Dauni, who are great experts.

Proverbi arbëreshë di Kazallveqi

Kush ndan ka më të mirën pjesë

Who divides the portions keeps the best for themselves

Bën fesin pë mos të ver te uerra

Pretend to be an idiot to avoid going to war

Kur gruoja tundën bithën o ish dosë o ish djall

When a woman wiggles her hips she is either a whore or a temptress

Pa groshtë ngë këndohet mesha

No mass is sung without money

Llidh llajdhurin ku thot patruni

Tether your donkey where the master says

Rites both sacred and profane

Rites are almost continuously celebrated on the Monti Dauni and are often tied to nature and its cycle. Mostly of pagan origin, they have resisted Christianity yet adapted to it. One such example is the bonfires at the start of the Carnival and celebrate **Sant'Antonio Abbate** (17th January) in Alberona, Biccari, Roseto Valfortore and Volturino. Bonfires are also lit to celebrate the arrival of spring in honour of **San Giuseppe** (19th March) in Bovino, Faeto, Panni and Troia.

In Celle and in Faeto on the last day of Carnival, the funeral is held of a straw dummy called *Paccalotte* or *Francische de paglie*. After reading its last will (a satirical piece on everything that went wrong in the previous year), the funereal cortège leads to the pyre.

Surely, the most evocative bonfires can be seen 1st November in Orsara di Puglia, for the "**Fucacoste e Cocce Priatorje**" (Bonfires and Heads of Purgatory). The medieval village is lit up with hundreds of bonfires, voices and music, food and wine.

.....
Cocce priatorje. Opposite page: Fucacoste



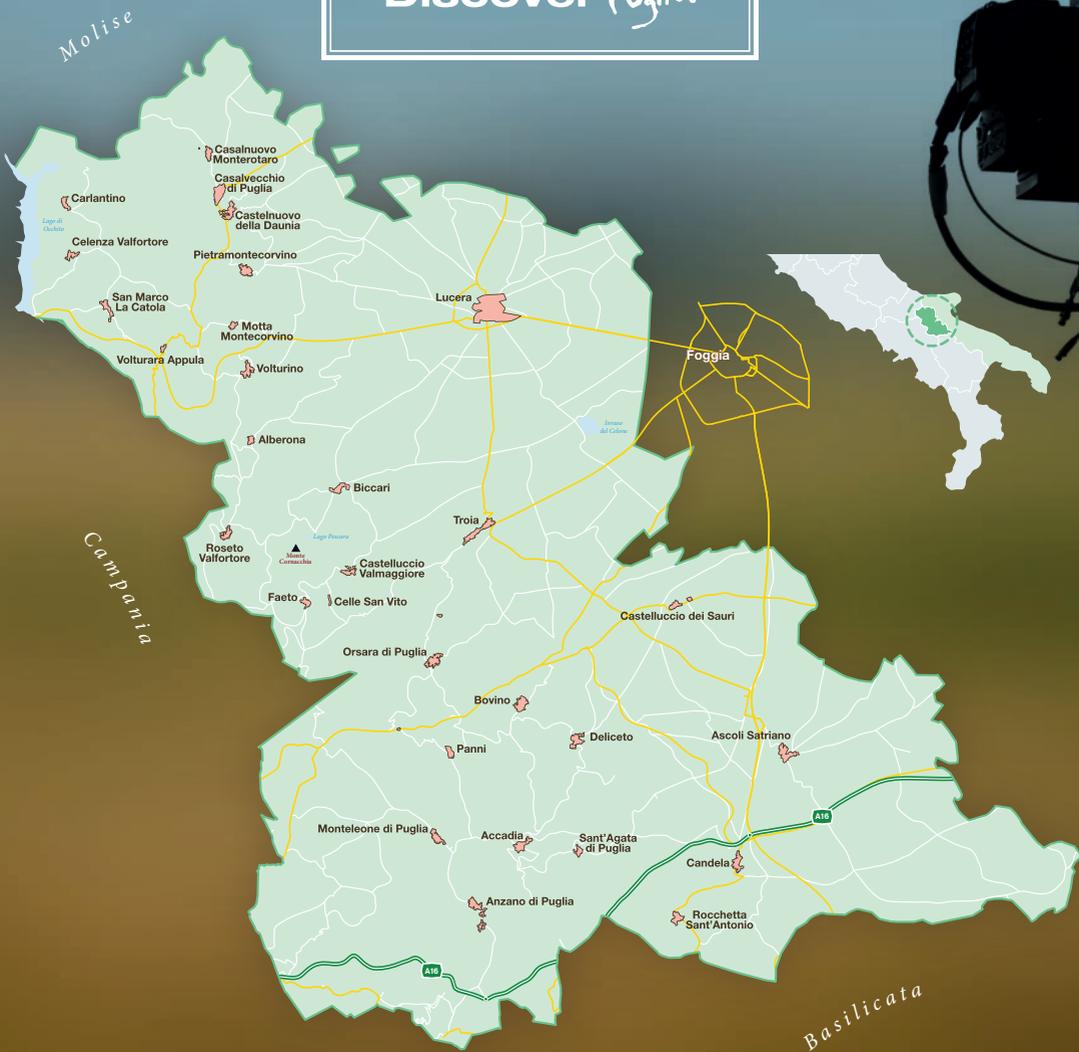
"Fucacoste e Cocce priatorje" (Orsara di Puglia)

In the days leading up to 1st November, the people of Orsara gather wood and ajeneste (dry broom) to feed the bonfires for All Saints' Night. The fires bum with tall flames and sparks shoot into the sky, strengthening the bond between what is mortal and what was mortal. Along the streets carved pumpkins with candles show the way to the souls of the dead who, on this magical night, join the living once more. The procession of souls from purgatory, according to tradition, is reflected in the bowls of water placed outside the houses. For on this night, the souls of the dead revisit their loved ones, returning to where they once lived, warming themselves by the bonfires in their honour, joining the living who revel with simple food: grilled meat, potatoes, chestnuts and muscetaglje, the typical sweet of the dead – boiled wheat with vino cotto, pomegranate and walnuts, sometimes even chocolate.

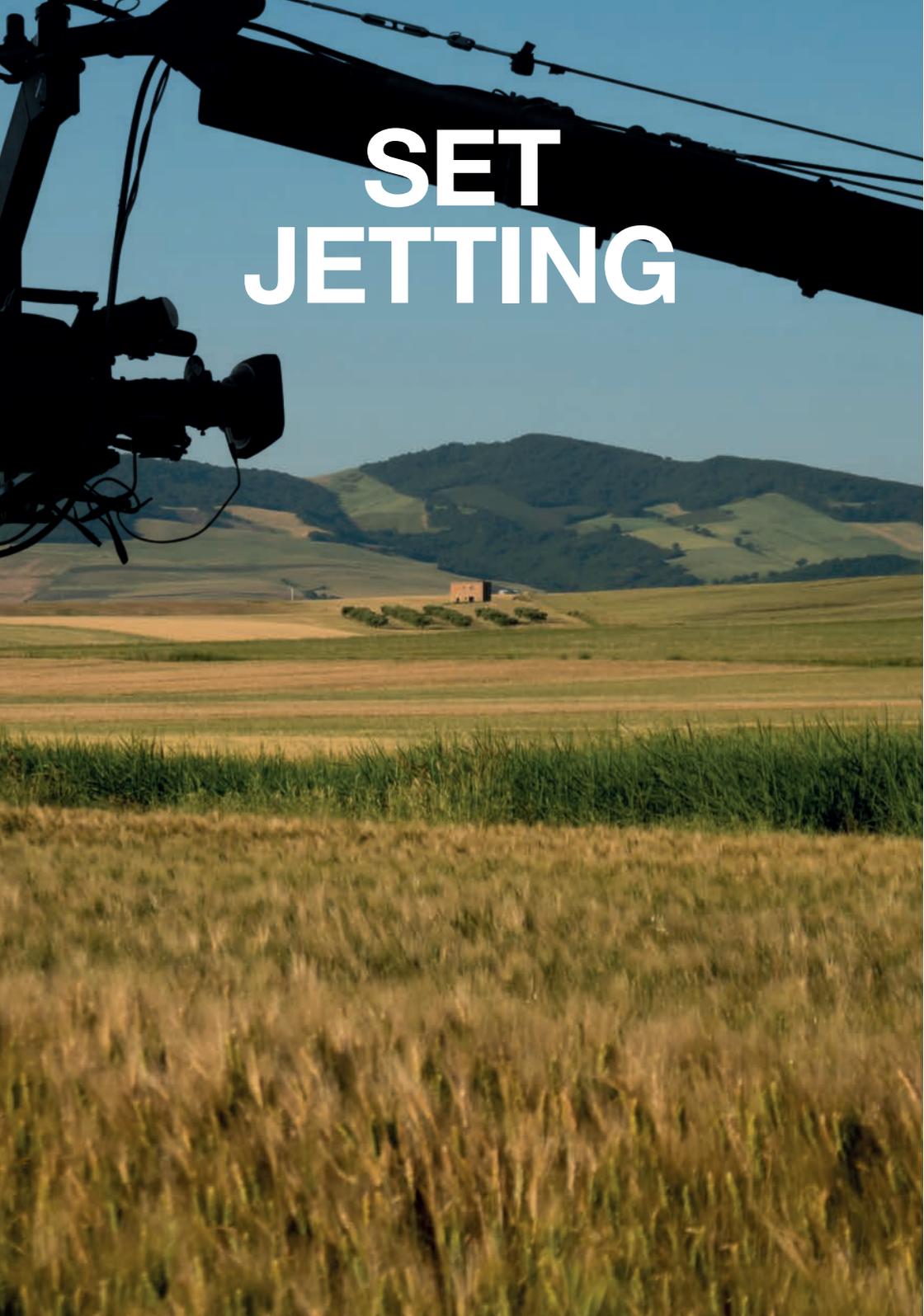


MONTI DAUNI

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SET JETTING



SET JETTING

Lights, charm: action!

Monti Dauni: shooting!

The cinema is fascinated by Monti Dauni. And this attraction responds with truly incredible historic, natural and scenic locations, often used to create settings in the past but also to set an imaginary or fairytale scene.

The castles at **Deliceto** and **Bovino** in **"Noi credevamo"** (2010) by Mario Martone, recreate the Montefusco penal colony in Irpinia, where many patriots from the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies were imprisoned. The ambitious Italian-French film production won the David di Donatello award for best film and tells the story of three young people during the Italian Risorgimento. The Risorgimento unfolds around the prestigious cast with a decidedly Southern feel, revealing a history that has always, and perhaps always will, mystify.

More cinema activity was set in **Bovino**. Here, among the white-washed houses and the rarefied atmosphere, **"Marina"** (2012) was filmed. The work by Stijn Coninx was inspired by the life of the singer, Rocco Granata. An international production, it deals with emigration, generational conflict and integration, where beauty of the village provides a perfect setting to the hero's childhood in 1950s Calabria. The two experiences are not surprising if you consider that Bovino has always been passionate about the seventh art and organises the *Independent Shortfilm Festival*.

The Swabian-Angevin Fortress of **Lucera** was transformed into the city walls of Barletta by Pasquale Festa Campanile for **"Soldato di Ventura"** (1976). The film tells the famous story of the Challenge of Barletta in a comical-grotesque way. The town of art reappears, in all its beauty, with its main piazza and the magnificent cathedral

Orsara surrealism

*The film director from Foggia, Carlo Fenizi, tells a wholly Apulian fairytale in **"Effetto Paradosso"** (2012). **Orsara di Puglia**, transformed into a magical, dreamlike place, forces Demetra to reconsider her life. *The Slow Town of Monti Dauni is also the ideal location for **"Stripes"** (2013), a short film by another director from Foggia, Marco Adabbo. The film, charged with surreal atmospheres that blend with fascinating glimpses of this village, continues to win accolades.**

BOVINO / DELICETO

PRODUCTION NOI CREDEVAMO

DIRECTOR MARIO MARTONE

CAMERA _____

DATE _____

SCENE _____

TAKE _____

1

5



"L'Ultima Fermata" by Giambattista Assanti (2014)

in Massimo Troisi's masterpiece "**Le Vie del Signore sono Finite**" (1987). It lends its beauty to the imaginary Campanian town of Acquasalubre, where the story of Camillo Pianese unfolds, an anti-fascist barber, paralysed by love.

Made entirely in Monti Dauni is the story told by Michele Placido in "**Del Perduto Amore**" (1998). Inspired by the life of Liliana Rossi, born in **Bovino** and who lived in **Ascoli Satriano**, the director's home town, the film was entirely shot in Lucania. Liliana's story is emblematic: a communist and catholic, she devoted her short life to improving the living conditions of women and farmhands.

In comparison, the beautiful "**Io non ho Paura**" (2003) by Gabriele Salvatores, based on the novel by Niccolò Ammaniti, is set in Basilicata, but the wheat fields of the Ofanto Valley and the **Candela** countryside are easily recognisable. The film paints a detailed picture of peasant life at the end of the 1970s.

Sant'Agata di Puglia is clearly recognisable in "**Cattolica**" (2003) by Rudolph Jula: a wholly Apulian *road movie* that tells the story of two very different brothers who, after finding each other, set off in search of their biological father. It's a journey of discovery, of their roots and themselves.

But the most unusual Apulia is seen in the short film "**La Stagione dell'Amore**" (2012) by Antonio Silvestre. With **Biccari**, its tower, its streets and the snow-covered peaks of Monti Dauni, the film explores the complexity of the contents of women's handbags, of love and its possible forms.

The Last Stop

*Giambattista Assanti tells of a disused railway line that touched the lives of many generations of Southerners: the **Avellino-Rocchetta Sant'Antonio**. He tells us about Domenico, a railway worker who always hesitated when whistling for the train to set off: that whistle was a constant and painful farewell. He tells us of his son Francesco who, after Domenico's death, finds the villages along the tracks to understand who his father was, meeting extraordinary characters, like the kindly railwayman in the lonely station at Rocchetta.*



"Marina" by Stijn Coninx (2013), Bovino

"**Child K**" (2013) is a short film by Roberto De Feo and Vito Palumbo. Shot on the shores of Lake Occhito near **Celenza Valfortore**, it takes us to German town of Pomssen, where an incredible story unfolds, telling of the horrors of the "Aktion T4" Nazi program.

"**Il Tempo che Tiene**" (2009) is a film by the young director Francesco Marino set in his home town, **Volturnino**. It tells of opportunities lost and seized again, pursuing a labour of love for the town of wind through its urban and natural landscapes. The film refers to the real-life character Romanina whose story is told by those who remember her in the documentary by Raffaele Petrone and Teresa Monaco, "**La Romanina**" (2012). The story is of the discrimination suffered by a transsexual person in late 1960's Italy, revealing a small rural village rooted in traditional values, where an unexpected example of integration comes to life among timeless landscapes.

Many important productions have come to Monti Dauni, and, in general, the whole of Apulia, which, thanks to the *Apulia Film Commission*, supports cinema in telling the world about the beauty of a land whose cultural identity is based on welcoming.

Bovino and the actor

Italian actor Luigi Lo Cascio, who starred in films by Martone and Coninx, said: "Bovino lends itself to many cinematic possibilities because it is utterly wonderful, with its castle, the alleyways of the old town, the ancient churches... The integrity of the architecture, the beauty of the village and how everything is well cared for, offer cinema a multitude of locations and settings for hundreds of stories".

LGBT friendly-shooting

From the Lilliana's homosexual friend and the discrimination in "Del Perduto Amore", to the transsexual sent to confinement in "La Romanina", from the journey of discovery and education by two brothers (one straight, the other gay) in "Cattolica", to the sexual freedom of a young bride in "La Stagione dell'Amore".



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Discover *Puglia*

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Angela
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Cotugno



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 Monti Dauni da scoprire

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