

MATERA AND THE BASILICATA REGION

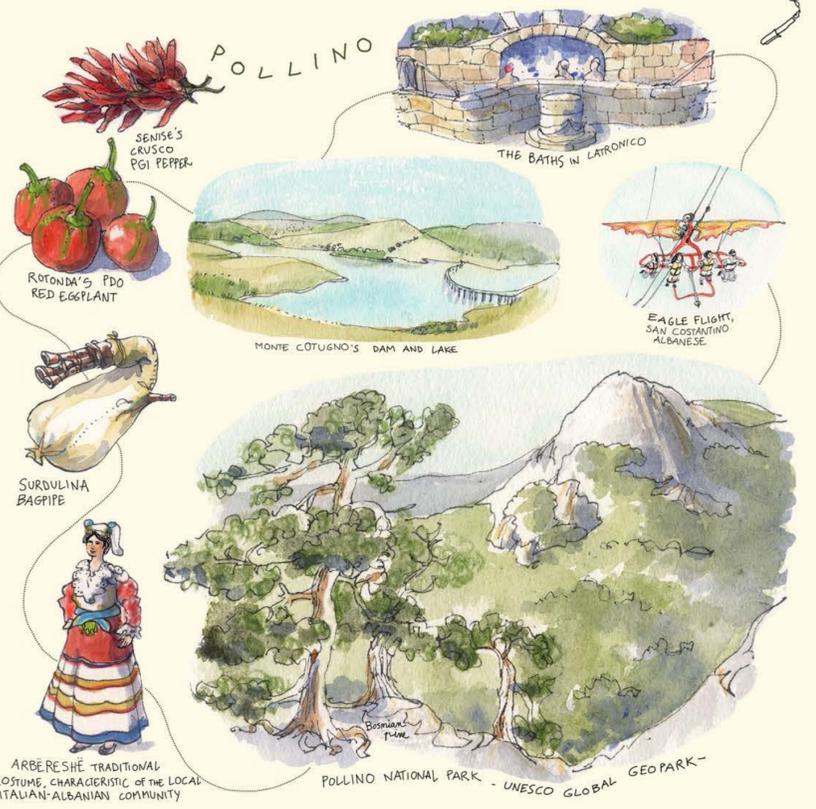
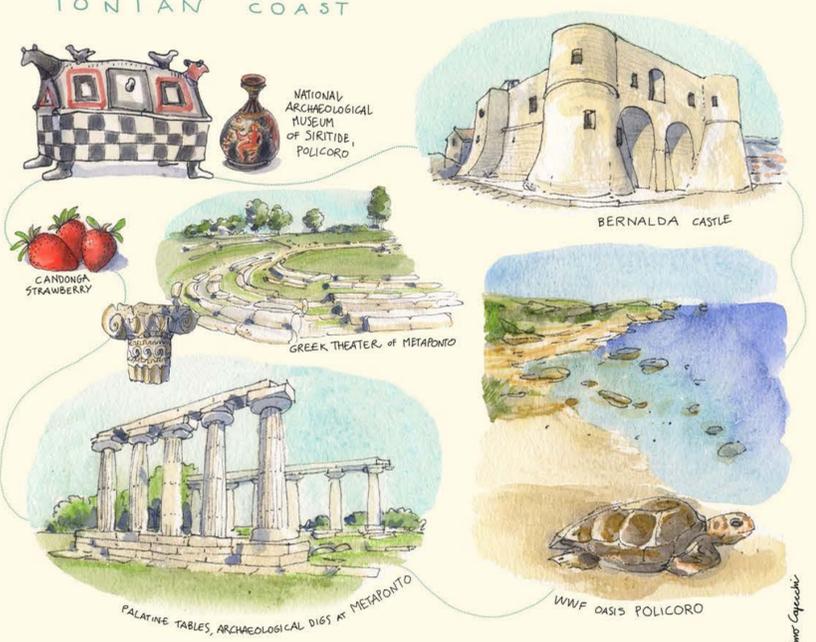
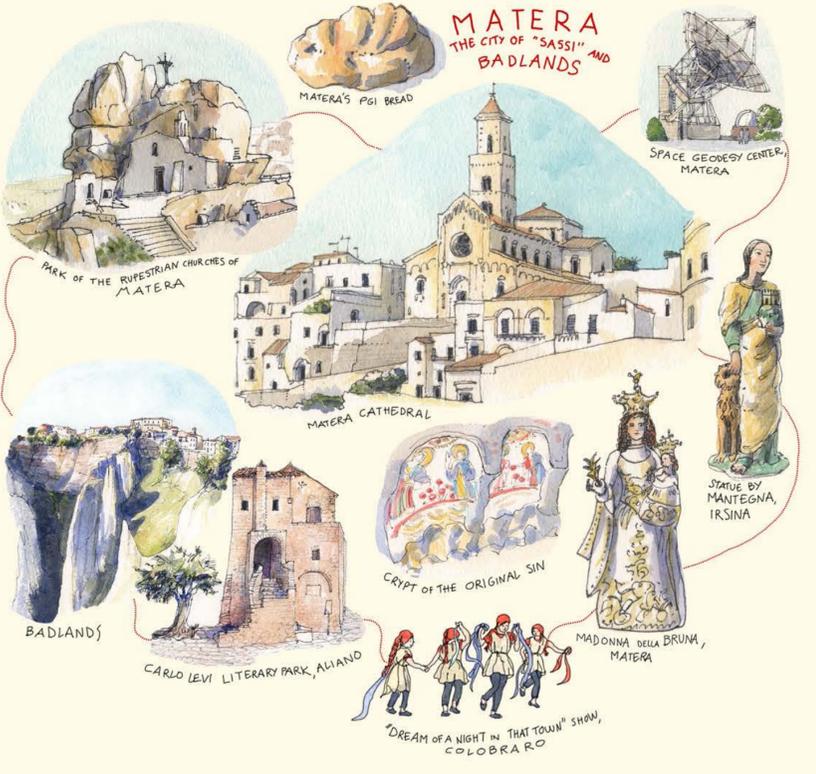
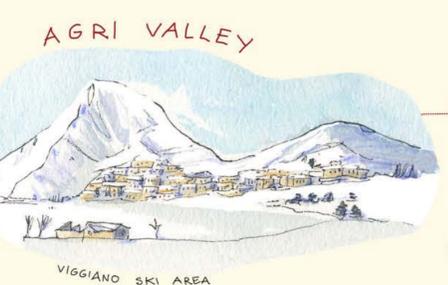
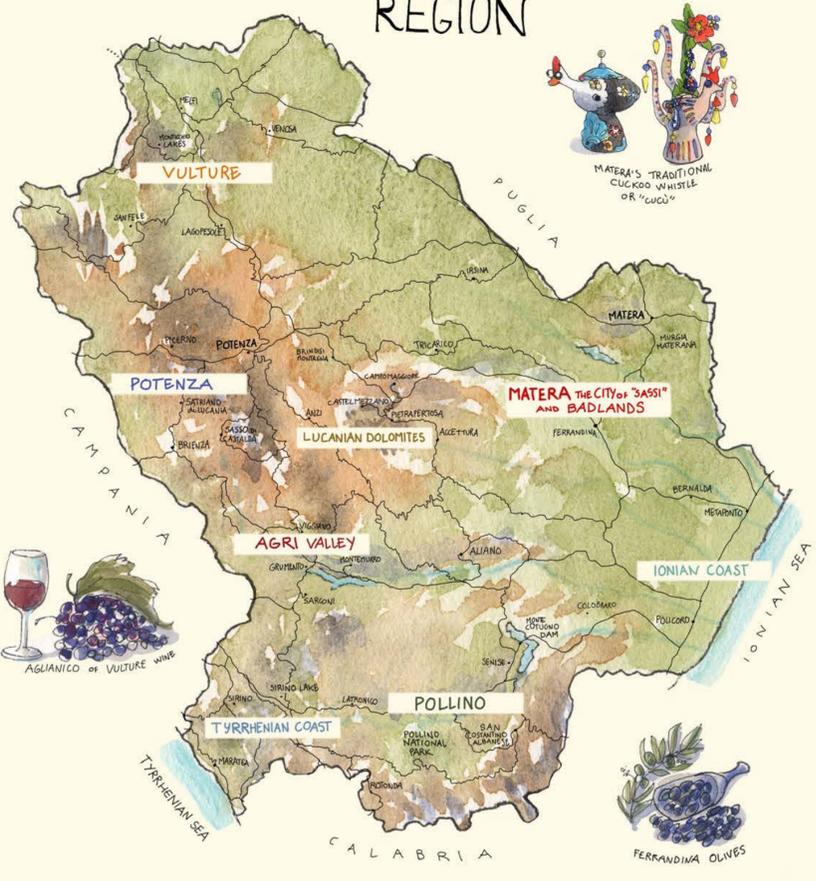
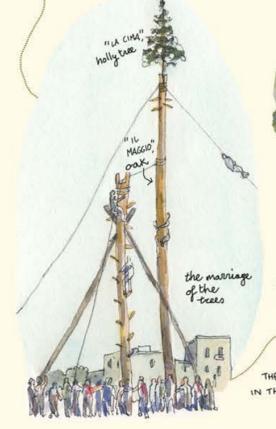
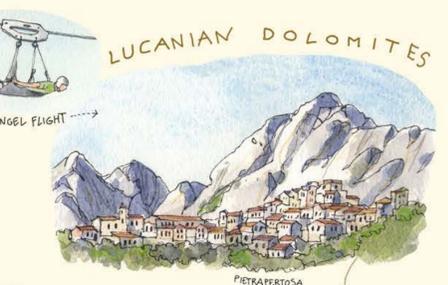
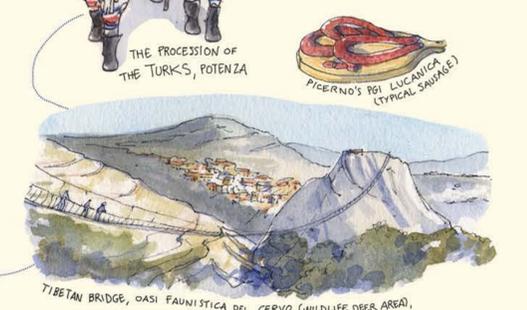
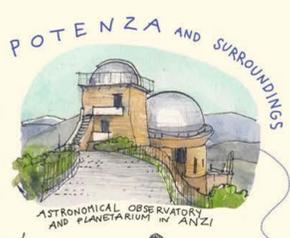


Illustration by Silver Capriccio



MATERA: ITINERARIES AND EVENTS

The City of "Sassi" and its treasures

In years past, **Matera's** unique charm has seduced photographers and directors like Henri Cartier-Bresson, Pier Paolo Pasolini and Mel Gibson. To understand its complex beauty, walk around the narrow streets of the old city and among its houses dug into the tuff. The stratifications of history and the delicate relationship with the natural environment make the area a surprising open-air museum.

Our journey into the 2019 European Capital of Culture

Our journey into the **2019 European Capital of Culture** must begin from its primitive heart: the "Sassi", the town's ancient cave-dwellings, included in the Unesco World Heritage list since 1993, together with the Park of the Rupestrian Churches. The two neighborhoods overlooked by the **Civita**, Matera's oldest core, are **Sasso Barisano** and **Caveoso**, consisting of a jumble of steps and narrow streets in which it's easy but also pleasant to get lost. You can discover caves and rock chapels like the **Cave Complex of Our Lady of Virtues** and **San Nicola dei Greci**, spanning different levels and overlooking the Gravina river canyon, in addition to the **churches of San Pietro Barisano, Santa Maria de Idris and San Pietro Caveoso**, dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries. In the heart of the Sassi there's also **Casa Cava**, the auditorium and cultural center dug in an ancient tuff quarry.

The **Duomo**, with its more than 50 meters high bell tower, watches over the Civita and the Sassi; its discreet facade makes the luxurious, baroque-style interiors even more surprising. In the nearby **Casa Noha**, an old property restored by FAI (the Italian Environmental Fund), you can watch a video about Matera's troubled past and redemption. The same story is told by the exhibits of the **National Archaeological Museum "Domenico Ridola"** and in the halls of **Lanfranchi Palace**, hosting both the National Museum of Medieval Art and the Carlo Levi Center.

Contemporary spaces

Take a foray into modernity by visiting **Musma**, the Museum of Contemporary Sculpture inside Pomarici Palace, with works of art that go very well with the 18th century interiors. Among the featured artists are Giacomo Manzù, Alexander Calder, Medardo Rosso, Mimmo Paladino and José Ortega, a Spanish painter and sculptor who fell in love with the Sassi, and whose house, **Casa Ortega**, has been transformed into another museum. Other interesting exhibitions are proposed by the SouthHeritage Foundation for Contemporary Art. Before leaving downtown, take a tour among the **workshops of artisans and potters** in via delle Beccherie, and stop at a bakery to buy the famous **PGI bread**, made with durum wheat and natural yeast according to an ancient recipe.

In the Park of the Rupestrian Churches

In the Murgia Materana, at the **Archeological Park of the Rupestrian Churches**, traces of a millenary human presence can be found in chapels, apses and tabernacles carved into the rock and frescoed by monks and hermits. The most charming and surprising is the **Crypt of the Original Sin**, known as Basilicata's "Sistine Chapel of Rupestrian Art" and decorated with 8th and 9th century frescoes.

A year of exhibitions, music, festivals and events

In 2019, the year of its nomination as European Capital of Culture, **Matera** is the place to visit, a privileged observation point from which to admire the best international artistic production, follow the debates on the big questions of modernity and start discovering the region.



This highly eventful year is an invitation to discover Matera and the history and fascination of its Sassi.

From January 19 to December 20, the ambitious agenda for **Matera 2019** is packed with appointments. Dove has selected the ones that are not to be missed. It's all started on January 19 with the opening ceremony, **Open the Future!**, involving 2019 musicians from all over Europe. Then twice a month, from February to September, **Future Digs** - meetings with experts from various sectors debating the future of culture - and plenty of exhibitions can be attended. Like **The poetry of Primes** about Pythagoras and mathematics, expressed through historical, educational and artistic paths with works by Escher, Nespolo and Spizzichino, and spread between **Matera and the archaeological digs at Metaponto and Policoro** (from June to October), or **Ars Excavandi**, dedicated to Matera and other cave cities in the world (from January to July). At the National Museum of Medieval and Modern Art, inside **Lanfranchi Palace**, **The Renaissance Seen from**

The musical tradition of brass bands is a main feature of Matera 2019's opening ceremony.



the South focuses on Mediterranean routes and meetings between peoples by comparing works of art, artifacts and world maps (from April to August), while **Stratigraphy-The Observatory of Anthropocene**, curated by photographer Amin Linke, shows how our world is changing with projections, images, documents and interviews.

Concerts and gourmand itineraries

For two nights in July, the **Gran Concerto per Matera** will feature Rai (Italian national public broadcasting company) National Symphony Orchestra, directed by James Conlon, inside the eighteenth-century **Cava del Sole**. On July 18 the same location will host **Cosmic Jives** - **The Apollo Soundtrack**, a performance directed by electronic music master Brian Eno, who celebrates the Apollo 11 space mission by mixing sounds, NASA images and real-time videos generated by the Space Geodesy Center "Giuseppe Colombo" in Matera. Also featured will be **Vienna's Vegetable Orchestra**, with its instruments obtained from fresh vegetables (April). Also not to be missed are gastronomic events like **Breadway** (from May to June), with itineraries in the **Picciano neighborhood** to discover Matera bread, including the history of its stamps, and literally put your hands in the dough. The "Sassi" will be the backdrop to the vicissitudes of **Cavalleria Rusticana** co-produced by the San Carlo Theater of Naples with about 200 Matera's citizens as performers. The local community will be involved also in the performance of **Dante's Purgatory**, co-produced by Ravenna Festival and Allighieri Theater in collaboration with Teatro delle Albe/Ravenna Theater. The year of Matera will end with an exhibition of objects left to the city by visitors.



Info and complete events calendar: matera-basilicata2019.it

MATERA AND BASILICATA

Around the 2019 European Capital of Culture there's a whole, exciting region. Nature, art and taste: the pleasure of a surprising discovery



TEXTS: ALESSIA MERATI - TRANSLATION: GIAMPIERO CARÀ - ILLUSTRATIONS: SIMO CAPECCHI - PHOTOS: APT BASILICATA PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



A GREEN GETAWAY



At the center, a big green heart made of parks and protected oases. And then the fertile hills of Mount Vulture, the rugged summits of Lucanian Dolomites, the moonlike scenery of Murge and Badlands. Nature in Basilicata is surprising.

The parks. The region boasts two national parks and three regional ones. The first, the **Polino National Park**, established in 1993, is a Unesco geopark and the biggest park in Italy, with its 192.565 hectares of unspoiled nature distributed between Basilicata and Calabria and made of Bosnian pines, emblem of the park, but also forests of maples and beeches. Just to the north, the **Appennino Lucano - Val d'Agri - Lagonegrese National Park**, established in 2007 and stretching between mountains Volturino and Pierfaone, all the way to the Massiccio del Sirino and the Agri Valley, is a true bird-watching paradise.

Beaches in Maratea.



At the heart of Basilicata, midway between the provinces of Matera and Potenza, the **Regional Park of Gallipoli Cognato and the Lesser Lucanian Dolomites**, established in 1997, is announced by narrow gorges crossed by the Basento river. At Accettura, the Ente Parco is located in the Palazzo neighborhood, with a natural museum and adjoining botanical garden. The visitor center Pian di Giglio is also interesting, with an exhibition hall dedicated to the wolf and a natural reserve populated by fallow and red deers. Then there are the **Murgia National Park**, established in 1990 and characterized by cliffs, prehistoric caves and rock churches, and the **Vulture Regional Park**, established in 2017 and covered by chestnut woods that produce the Maronecino di Melfi PDO. Also worth an excursion are the **Monticchio Lakes**, a protected reserve hosting the rare night moth *Brahmaea europaea*, and the **San Fele Waterfalls**.

The Lucanian Badlands. A lunar landscape, drawn over the centuries by water digging into the white clay. The Badlands area lies between the communes of **Pisticci, Montalbano Ionico** and **Craco**, the ghost town used as set for many movies (from *Basilicata Coast to Coast* to *The Passion of the Christ*), **Stigliano, Ferrandina, Sandrara, Tursi** e **Aliano**.

The coasts. Although mainly mountainous, Basilicata has two accesses to the sea and beaches that have been repeatedly awarded a Blue Flag. **The Ionian Coast** from **Metaponto** to **Nova Siri**, stretches over 40 kilometers of long sandy beaches, pine forests and archeological digs into Magna Grecia. Here we discover the **Natural Reserve Pantano di Policoro**, a protected area with ponds and shores where birds and several species of turtles nest. **The Tyrrhenian Coast** stretches about 30 kilometers with intimate little beaches, like Capo la Nave, and revolves around **Maratea**. The view over the Policastro Gulf can be enjoyed from the Statue of Christ the Redeemer, on top of Mount San Biagio.



OPEN-AIR SPORTS

In a land that's still preserved and only slightly marked by human presence, it's easy to surrender to the call of nature while enjoying both spectacular landscapes and great opportunities to practice open-air sports. And the activities to be experienced can really suit all tastes. Many routes are an invitations to live Basilicata at a slower rhythm - **on foot, by bike or on horseback** - in order to fully appreciate the balsamic effect of woods, lakes and streams. Adventures are certainly not lacking, though: with kids, for example, you can have fun walking on Tibetan bridges in the **adventure parks** located at Accettura, Albano di Lucania, Ruoti, San Costantino Albanese, San Severino Lucano and Viggiano.

At a leisurely pace. Hiking and nordic walking lovers head towards the Polino National Park while walking on the brink of ravines and among rock churches and healthy villages in the Murgia National Park. Much less demanding are the walks inside the Natural Reserve of Mount Crocia and the waymarked trails through the woods, once dominated by brigands, near the Monticchio Lakes, a perfect scenery for **horseback excursions** too. If you're looking for a touch of adventure, you can reach the Bridges to the Moon in Sasso di Castalda, a series of equipped paths and trails along the Fosso Arenazzo, or the Nepesese bridge between Pietrapertosa and Castelmezzano. That area, up to Accettura and Campomaggiore, is also a climbing gym for **bolddering** experts. On a **mountain bike**, instead, you can challenge the steep slopes and high altitudes of Polino Park, Lucanian Dolomites and Mount Sirino, while for smoother and more scenic rides it's better to choose the hills in the Vulture region, around Matera or on the Metapontine coast. Still on the coastal area, why not try the thrill of flying in Maratea? You can go **paragliding** from the Redeemer to the beach of Acquafredda.



Diving and water sports.

Looking for emotions on water? **Rafting, canyoning and water trekking** are practiced among the streams of the Polino, while **rowing competitions** are held on the Monte Cotugno Lake at Senise. And **sailing, snorkeling and diving** enthusiasts are never disappointed with the Ionian and Tyrrhenian coasts.

Downhill and cross-country skiing: fun on the snow. In a region where 70 percent of the territory is mountainous, it's not difficult to imagine yourself going around and with skis and snowshoes on the snow-covered peaks. Basilicata hosts five ski areas, with alpine ski runs on **Sellata-Pierfaone-Arioso, Volturino, Viggiano** and **Sirino**. Together with the **Polino** area, these places also offer cross-country **skiing rings**, trails for **snowshoe walks** and open areas for **luge** and **bobsled** rides.

Guides about cycling tourism, hiking, mountain biking and winter sports can be downloaded from the website basilicataturistica.it



FORAYS INTO BEAUTY: ART CITIES, CASTLES AND VILLAGES

A journey into the history and great beauty of Basilicata appeals to seekers of pristine, mysterious places, and unravels through **old villages** (7 are members of the association Borghi più Belli d'Italia or Italy's Most Beautiful Villages, 4 have been awarded Orange Flags, seven are registered by another association, Italy's Authentic Villages, and 7 more are historic coastal towns) and **castles**. All are worth a visit, together with **art cities, museums and archaeological digs**. An immersion in local culture takes place also in four **literary parks**, set in places that inspired or hosted writers and poets: the **Carlo Levi Literary Park in Aliano**, those dedicated to **Isabella Morra in Valsinni** and **Albino Pierro in Tursi**, and **Leonardo Sinigaglia's Home of the Museums in Montemurro**.



Potenza and surroundings. The Lucanian capital grows vertically. The historic center overlooks the modern part of the city and can be reached through **elevators and stairways** like the Hundred Steps Staircase from viale Manzoni to via Marconi. Potenza is a vibrant city, with **via Pretoria** as one of the most lively hangout places and a wide range of cultural offerings, including jewels like the **Francesco Stabile Theater and Opera**, dating back to 1856, the **Conservatory of Music Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa** and its **Auditorium**, and the **Basilicata National Archaeological Museum Dinu Adamesteanu** in Palazzo Loffredo. The latter tells the story of the Lucanian territory before the Greek colonization and shares the same location with the **City Gallery** and the **Cappella dei Celestini**. Guided visits and archaeological exhibitions animate the **Provincial Museum**. For modern art, the **Pinatoteca**, with works by De Chirico, Levi and Guttuso, is the place to go. Leaving Potenza through the **Musumeci Bridge**, a great engineering work of the Seventies, you encounter a string of small communities. Like **Satriano**, the village of murals, with daily life scenes painted on its houses. Or **Brienza**, with the Angevin castle rebuilt in 1571, and **Muro Lucano**, with its interesting **Archaeological Museum**. **Tolve**, place of pilgrimage for devotees of Saint Rocco, concludes the itinerary.

The Vulture area. Around the extinguished volcano that gives it its name there's a land of castles, vineyards, mineral waters and woods. Places dear to the Emperor Frederick II of Swabia, who ordered the construction of fortifications and summer residences here. As it can be seen in the town of **Melfi**, perched around the **Norman castle** that hosts the National Archaeological Museum, where Frederick II issued the Constitutions of Melfi. Just 30 kilometers away, **Venosa**, welcomes visitors with a **Roman Archaeological Park** and the **National Archaeological Museum**, but also offers other surprising treasures like the **Cathedral of Saint Andrew Apostle**, the prehistoric **Paleolithic site of Notarchirico**, the **Jewish catacombs** and the **Abbey of the Most Holy Trinity**, flanked by its unfinished church. Along the road there's also **Acerenza**, called the "Cathedral city" because of its imposing **Duomo** dedicated to the Assumption of Mary and Saint Cansius. At the **Lagopesole Castle**, you can discover the history of Frederick II, while

just north, overlooking the Monticchio Lakes, the impressive **Abbey of Saint Michael the Archangel** hosts the Natural History Museum.

Matera province and Badlands. The visit to Matera can be part of a broader itinerary including the nearby hills and extending towards the Badlands. At Iršina check out the **statue of Saint Euphemia**, attributed to Mantegna and housed inside the Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary, before discovering the rest of the town, with its archaeological museum inside the convent of Saint Francis. The journey through art treasures includes **Miglionico**, dominated by the **Castle of the Bad Council**, where in 1485 local barons plotted against the king Ferdinand of Aragon, an event commemorated today in the multimedia museum. Worth a visit is also the **Basilica of Saint Mary Major**, with its polypptych by Venetian master Cima da Conegliano. Leaving behind the nearby town of **Montescaglioso** and its 11th century abbey, embellished with frescoes by Girolamo Todisco, we reach **Ferrandina, Craco** and the literary parks of **Aliano, Valsinni** e **Tursi**. The latter village retains traces of Moorish architecture in the neighborhood of Rabatana.

The Lucanian Dolomites. A paradise for sports enthusiasts, the Lucanian mountains also preserve interesting historical testimonies. In the woods between Accettura and Oliveto Lucano stand the ruins of the ancient fortified town of **Crocia Cognato**, a sort of Lucanian "Stonehenge". Worth a visit are also the **Museum of Arboreal Cuts in Accettura**, the City of Utopia at **Campomaggiore Vecchio** and **Tricarico**, with its medieval historical center and the Moorish-style neighborhoods of Rabata and Saracena.

The Agri Valley. A historic valley, where echoes of great battles can still be heard. Like in the **Archeological Area of Grumentum**, with its **National Archaeological Museum** hosting the remains of the ancient Roman city that fought against Hannibal, particularly the Amphitheater.

The Amphitheater of Grumentum.

Nearby there's **Viggiano**, the city of the harp, with its **Celebration of the Black Madonna**, patroness of Basilicata. Preserved from September to May in the **Basilica of Santa Maria alle Mura**, the statue is then carried in procession to the **Sanctuary of the Sacred Mountain**. Not to be missed are also the villages of **Guardia Perticara**.

Sant'Arcangelo, with its 4th century necropolis and the Convent of Santa Maria Orsileo, **Lagonegro** and **Lauria**.

The Polino. In the Polino area, after peaks and landscapes drawn by Bosnian pines, you can discover the beauty of Lucanian Baroque in towns like **Castelluccio Inferiore**, with its historic center made of churches and palaces. This is also the cradle of the **arberëshë culture**, whose language and customs still survive through the alleys of **San Paolo** and **San Costantino Albanese**. In **San Severino Lucano**, the Madonna del Polino is highly venerated.

The Ionian and Tyrrhenian Coasts. There are 7 historic coastal towns in Basilicata: **Maratea, Bernalda, Metaponto, Pisticci, Scanzano Ionico, Policoro, Nova Siri** and **Rotondella**. All ideal destinations for tourists in search of uncomatinated places with a great history. On the Tyrrhenian coast, **Maratea** is the city of the 44 churches, including **Saint Mary Major**. On top of Mount Biagio, the archeological remains of **Maratea Superiore** and the **statue of the Redeemer** are worth a detour, while old towns like **Valle del Nocce, Rivello, Treccina** e **Lagonegro** can be found in the hinterland. An appointment with history awaits on the **Ionian Coast**, where the **Greek remains of Metaponto-Bernalda** and **Policoro**, with their archaeological museums, show the influence of Magna Grecia. In the Metaponto Archeological Park, the **Palatine Tables**, fifteen Doric columns left from the ancient temple of Hera, are a sight to behold.



ARTISAN KNOW-HOW



Made in Basilicata. It is said that there is a "civilization of the hands" in this region. A heritage of ancient crafts handed down to new generations and sometimes reinterpreted by artisans and designers in a modern way. To check this you just need to walk through the alleys of Matera, where it's not difficult to find the right souvenir to bring home with you at the end of the journey. In workshops where **paper-mâché, wrought-iron yarns** and **tuff** are made and **artistic ceramics** are modeled one can discover illustrated plates, glasses, bread stamps, stone sculptures. And then the iconic **cuicù**, the hand-painted rooster-shaped terracotta whistle that, according to tradition, keeps the evil spirits at bay.

Matera is also the cradle of **cabinet-making**, but the art of **woodworking** in general is widespread throughout the region. Very important is also the processing of natural fibers: **straw and wicker** in particular are woven into baskets for various uses. When reaching Potenza it's nice to discover that the regional capital is animated by designers and artisans who are particularly eager to work with **jewels, furnishings and terracotta objects**. At Avigliano, in the Potenza province, the shape of silver and brass **knives** is as surprising as the **artistic embroidery on fine fabrics and the hand-knotted wool rugs**. While further South at Trivigno, in the Lucanian Dolomites area, you can find **contemporary designers** who have embraced **sustainable fashion**, creating articles of clothing with recycled materials. Original are also the **graffiti** in Montemurro, made on polychromatic mortars obtained by mixing Agri Valley sands and pigments with a technique developed by Giuseppe Antonello Leone, the artist who opened a specialized school here in 2003.

Finally music lovers will discover Viggiano, the city of wandering musicians, **harp** builders already known for their art in the 18th century, while the melodies of **bagpipe** builders and players resonate in Teranova del Polino and San Paolo Albanese.

Fucina Madre - Expo of handicraft and design in Basilicata. Featuring exhibitions, seminars and workshops, and particularly the best works of Lucanian artisans and designers, it will return to **Matera from July 21 to July 28 2019** as a tourism project by the Agency for Territorial Promotion (ATP). A great event that not only promotes the skills of local creatives, but also inspires a journey to discover a region full of laboratories and workshops and experience first-hand the fruits of artisan know-how as expressions of local culture and tradition.

Info: basilicataturistica.it/fucinamadre



A TASTY BREAK



The pleasure of good cuisine. Also at the table, Basilicata is a great discovery. The variety of the land translates into a gourmet basket of typical products and a genuine cuisine, capable to preserve knowledge and flavors of the past. From the rural world come delicacies like **Senise's "crusco" PGI pepper**, used to season the baccalà (dried salted cod) all'aviglianese, a traditional dish from Avigliano; **Rotonda's PDO red eggplant**, produced in the Polino aerea; **Candonga stawberry** from the Metaponto area; **Maronecino of Melfi Pdo**, Vulture's typical chestnut; **truffles and rafano** (radish), basic ingredients of "rafanata", a sort of baked omelet. As a traditional product, **legumes** are staples of a simple but nourishing cuisine. Regional varieties include **Sarceni's Pgi Bean**, **Rotonda's PDO white bean**, **Tolve's black chickpeas**, and **Pantano di Pignola's red drafted bean**. All seasoned with one of the high quality olive oils of the region, especially **Vulture's PDO extra-virgin oil**. Various types of cold cuts or **salumi** are dry-cured on the mountains, including **Piceno's PGI Lucanica** (sausage of Piceno), and cheeses like **Filiano's PDO Pecorino**, **Molitermo's PGI Canestrato** and **Caciocavallo Podolico**. Other undisputed symbols of Lucanian gastronomy are **Matera's PGI bread**, made with durum wheat and mother yeast, and the prestigious **Aviglianico di Vulture DOCG**. The latter, nicknamed "Barolo of the South", is the flagship of a wine production that also includes **Grotтино di Roccanova DOC**, **Terre dell'Alta Val d'Agri DOC**, **Matera DOC** and **Basilicata TGI**.

Some numbers. 114 are the **Traditional Food Products** (TFP) recognized by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and Tourism; 17 are products labeled as **DOCG DOC PGI and TGI**; and 5 are so-called **Presidi di Slow Food**: Basilicata's Caciocavallo Podolico, Pantano di Pignola's red drafted bean, Ferrandina's baked olive, Sinni Valley's Signora pear and Pezzente of Matera Mountains, a typical sausage.

Events: Festivals and fairs to put on the calendar
During the summer, in palaces and castles of the **Vulture Melfese**, the **Aviglianico Wine Festival** offers tastings, meetings and concerts to celebrate the pairing of wine and territory. In July, the appointment is at **Pescopagano** for the **Sagra della Podolica** (Podolica Festival), which allows visitors to watch the processing of span paste for the production of cheeses. In August, the **Giornate del Paperone** (Pepper Days), in **Senise**, are an opportunity to learn the secrets of crusco pepper and its culinary use. Il **Bianco e la Rossa di Rotonda DOP Festival**, in **Rotonda**, is a celebration of the typical white and red eggplants. Wine tastings, dances and shows in the old town are the ingredients of **Cantine Aperte** (Open Cellars), scheduled at **Sant'Angelo le Fratte**. The events continue in September with the **Sagra del Pecorino di Filiano**, dedicated to the local sheep cheese. At **Barile**, the festival **Tumact Me Tulez** offers tastings of *tagliatelle* with breadcrumbs and walnuts, a typical arberëshë (Italian-Albanian) dish.

Info e altri eventi: basilicataturistica.it/evento



EMOTIONAL JOURNEYS

Through re-enactments, multimedia museums, theater performances and panoramic flights, Basilicata offers many opportunities to discover the territory and its history in innovative and involving ways.

Il volo dell'Angelo and il Percorso delle Sette Pietre (Angel Flight and the Route of the Seven Stones). You can go from **Castelmezzano** to **Pietrapertosa**, two towns on the Lucanian Dolomites, in two different ways; either hovering in the air, hooked to a steel cable that connects the two centers at a height of more than 400 meters during a zipline adventure called **Angel Flight**, or staying on the ground to follow the **Route of the Seven Stones**. A literary walk in several stages inspired by Mimmo Sarmantino's book titled *Vita ballava con le streghie*. Info: volodellangelo.com

Il Volo dell'Aquila (Eagle Flight). The **Polino National Park** gives you another opportunity to experiment the thrill of flying. This time over the roofs of **San Costantino Albanese**, the arberëshë town, on board of a four-seats hang glider, anchored to a cable. Fl: **Volo dell'aquila**

Il mondo di Federico II (The world of Frederick II). At **Avigliano**, the **Castle of Lagopesole** hosts a multimedia museum that tells the story of the emperor's life, loves, politics and ambitions with projections and technological installations. Fl: Il mondo di Federico II

La storia Bandita (The Outlawed Story). From July to September, hundreds of actors in period costumes bring to the stage a grandiose, dramatized reenactment of Lucanian brigandage, set in **Grancia Park**, at **Briandisi di Montagna**. Info: parcograncia.it

La città dell'Utopia (The City of Utopia). At the foot of the **Lucanian Dolomites**, the ghost town of **Campomaggiore Vecchio**, abandoned after the 1885 earthquake, comes to life in August with the theatrical representation of an historical fairytale titled "La città dell'Utopia".

Returning to his ravaged town, a soldier encounters characters who make him dream of an ideal city. Info: cittadellutopia.it

Santa Maria d'Orsileo Convent. Within the **Sant'Arcangelo** monumental complex, in the valley of the **Badlands**, you can travel back to the origins of monasticism. Here, the Scenographic Museum evokes a spiritual journey in the ancient Basilicata, with video installations and films. Info: comune.santarangelo.pz

La signora del Lago (The Lady of the Lake). At **Nemoli**, during the summer, floating stages, fountains, projections on water and aerial dance are the ingredients of a musical fairytale performed on the **Sirino lake** by more than 50 walk-ons. Info: laignoradellago.com

L'estate d'Isabella (Isabella's Summer). Spectacularized tours to the historic center of **Valsinni**, complete with minstrels and street singers, are a tribute to 16th century poetess Isabella Morra. In the evening, between July and September, visits to the castle and handicraft fairs animate the town. Info: parcomarroti.it

Observatories. The Planetarium in **Anzi**, the Astronomical Observatory in **Castelgrande** and the Space Geodesy Center in **Matera** are privileged observation points for enjoying the stary sky of Basilicata.

Sogno di una notte "a quel paese" (Dream of a Night in "That Town"). The town of **Colobraro**, in the Matera province, brings bad luck, at least according to an ancient rumor that spawned an amusing tradition. In August theater performances and dances of monachicchi and pizzarella, characters of local folklore, enliven the historic center. A good luck charm is given to all participants. Info: colobraro.eu



SPIRITUALITY AND FOLKLORE

Festivals, rites and myths: a dialogue between sacred and profane
The **Lucanian Carnival** brings back to memory a faraway world, tied to the rhythms of nature and populated by legends. It's a celebration expressed differently in different towns. There are the "horned" masks of Aliano and the zoomorphic forms of Montescaglioso, the cowbells resonating in the streets of San Mauro Forte and the costumes depicting transhumant herds during the Mash-k-r Carnival of Tricarico. In Satriano di Lucania, the most representative is the mask of Rumita, a man covered with branches and leaves. And let's not forget the Carnival of Cirigliano, the Bear and the Carnival of Teana, the Domino of Lavello, the allegorical wagons of Stigliano and the Straw Carnival of Viggiano, with its wagons and willow-wood puppets.

Inspired by ancient hymns to soil fertility are events tied to rural life and arboreal rites like the **Festa del Maggio** (Maggio Festival), popular in Accettura, Oliveto Lucano and Pietrapertosa, and the **Sagra dell'Abete** (Pinewood Festival), in Rotonda, Castelsaraceno, Castelmezzano, Terranova di Polino and Viggiano. Both represent nature renewing itself through the marriage between a trunk (the bridegroom) and a



leafy branch (the bride), grafted together and lifted to the sky. Among Christian celebrations, **Easter** is certainly one of the most deeply felt, particularly in the Vulture area. **Sacred Representations** of the most significant moments in the life of Christ - like the Last Supper, the Way of the Cross and the Passion - are brought to the stage by hundreds of extras in costume at Ripacandina, Atella, Venosa, Barile, Maschio, Rapolla and Rionero in Vulture. Something similar happens with the Preggessione at Oppido Lucano, while at Montescaglioso, in the Matera province, the statues of the Mysteries parade on Good Friday. Moreover, each Lucanian town pays homage to its patron saint. In **Potenza**, the celebrations in honor of Saint Gerard (the historical **Procession of the Turks** on May 29) reenact the miracle that allowed the inhabitants to repel the Ottoman attack, while the **Madonna della Bruna**, patroness of **Matera**, is celebrated on July 2 with the parade of a papier-mâché processional carriage, which is finally destroyed by the crowd. The "Sassi" become even more suggestive at Christmas, when they host a **live crib**. Visitors can participate too, dressing as soldiers, peasants or blacksmiths.

USEFUL INFORMATION

For updated information about the territory, the events and the accommodations, check the website: basilicataturistica.it.



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