



ATTRACTIONS, INVENTORY AND MAPPING FOR ADVENTURE TOURISM

PUGLIA





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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. INTRODUCTION TO PILOT AREAS

Puglia Region is among the most growing tourist interests at European level, in the last ten years. This is due to a mix of the wide range of reasons why you should come to Puglia and a structured strategic approach towards culture and tourism integration. The high diversity of natural habits, cultural heritage and adventure experiences make the region's potential high in terms of adventure tourism, even though it is still unexpressed.

Specific selection criteria have been identified for pilot areas selection, taking into account both project guidelines and regional strategies. They are the following:

- Natural parks & protected areas: with the aim of dealing with homogeneous areas in terms of geographical, cultural, economic and social structure, overcoming administrative borders.
- Mix of known & unknown areas: in order to have a representative and diversified sample.
- Mature organizations as referent stakeholder: for improving project effectiveness, involvement and commitment of local stakeholders.
- Pilot areas distributed in the region: so it will be possible to test sustainable tourist models in areas with specific peculiarities.

Taking into account the criteria listed above, we selected pilot areas as following a path along the region from north to south. Selected pilot areas are (in square brackets the short name):

1. [Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands](#)

[Gargano]

2. [National Park of Alta Murgia](#)

[Murgia]

3. [Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine of Taranto](#)

[Taranto & gravine]

4. [WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto](#)

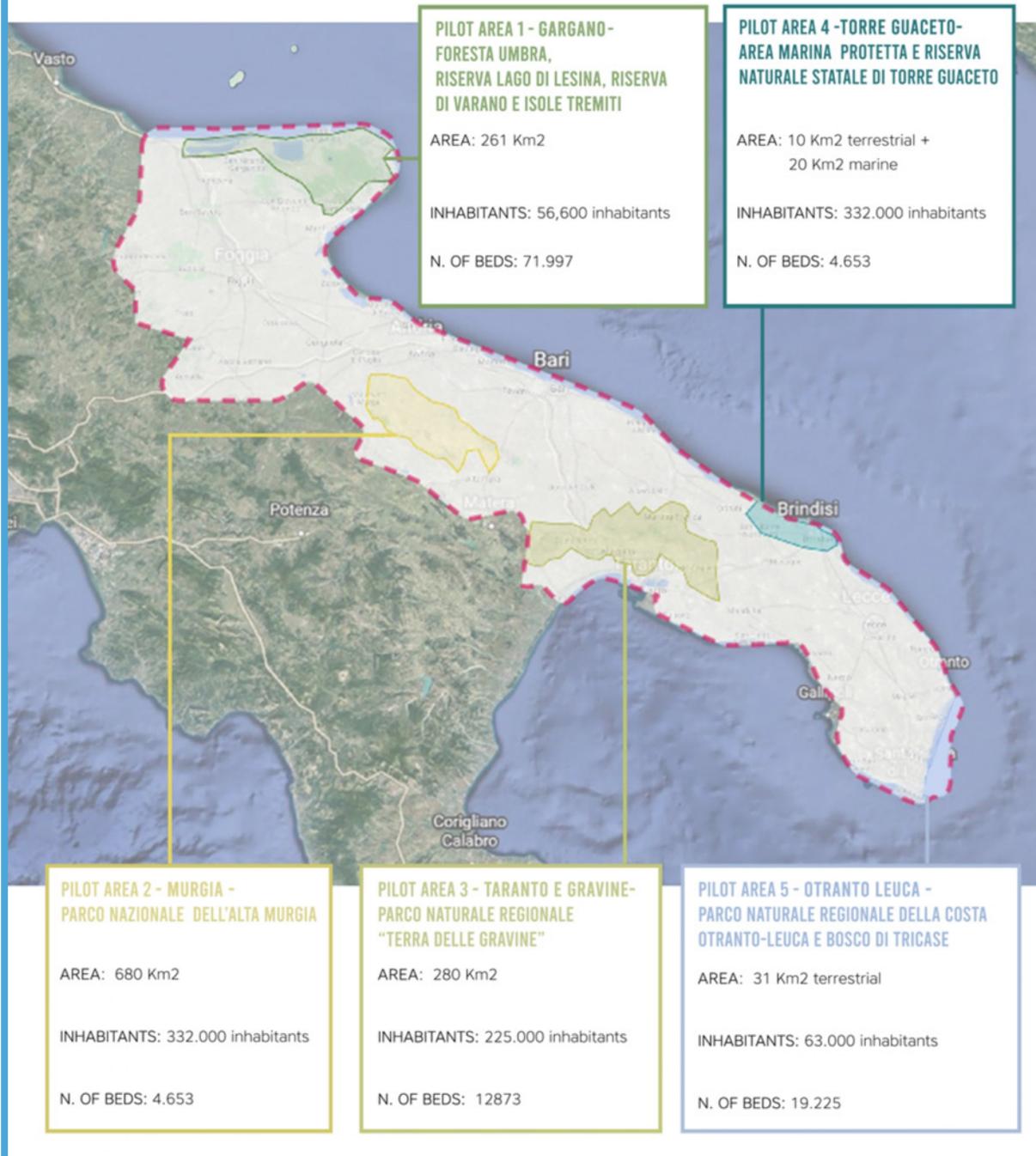
[Torre Guaceto]

5. [Regional Natural Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase](#)

[Otranto-Leuca]

Cultural routes' network crosses the region weaving landscapes, people and pieces of culture. Therefore, we will walk these routes imaginarily touching the five pilot areas from Lesina to Santa Maria di Leuca.

APULIAN REGION MEDUSA PILOT AREAS



1.1 Gargano

FORESTA UMBRA, LESINA LAKE RESERVE,
VARANO RESERVE AND TREMITI ISLANDS
[PILOT AREA N.1]

ph. Michele Fini



This imaginary trip starts where the Via Francigena - Micaelica borns, in Monte Sant'Angelo. This little town takes its name from the Santuario di San Michele Arcangelo, UNESCO site since 2011. This place have been the epicenter of Michaelic worship, since 490 A.D. becoming the starting point from Holy Land of via Micaelica, which connects Santuario di San Michele Arcangelo with Sacra di San Michele in Piedmont, Italy and Mont Saint-Michel in France: the main San Michele Arcangelo's worship sites. These three places are aligned on the map.

Monte Sant'Angelo hosts another UNESCO site: the ancient beech trees hosted in the Natural Reserves of Umbra and Falascone. It takes its name from latin "umbra": gloomy, shady. It is the perfect place for listening to Vivaldi's Four Seasons: its color changes over the seasons

are unforgettable. The site hosts three main forest areas with beech, oaks and holms. It extends in four municipalities: Vieste, Peschici, Vico del Gargano, Monte Sant'Angelo and Carpino. In the first three you can enjoy the typical old town and Gargano's crystalline sea, while the two latter are the best places to experience ancient cultural, culinary and production traditions of Gargano, as well as their energetic artistic synthesis of Carpino folk festival. It has a 24 years history, becoming among top innovative folk festivals worldwide.

By sea we reach Isole Tremiti, an archipelago of 5 islands with uncontaminated sea and landscapes. Despite being one of the most important tourist attractions in Puglia, it is the second least populated town in Puglia. We take again the sea for arriving at two lakes,

close each other, which are separated by a sand strip. These are among the few wet areas in the region and they host a very important flora and fauna diversity, being the two biggest lakes in the south of Italy. For this reason are protected areas, where a big part of apulian habits and species listed in Natura 2000 project live. This is a must place for birdwatching and hiking lovers. All these places are in the Gargano National Park.

MUNICIPALITIES: Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands are in the Gargano National Park and are hosted by 9 municipalities: Monte Sant'Angelo, Vieste, Vico del Gargano, Carpino, Peschici, Cagnano Varano, Ischitelli, Lesina, Isole Tremiti

1.2 Murgia

NATIONAL PARK OF ALTA MURGIA [PILOT AREA N.2]

ph.Vanda Biffani



The landscape of Murgia is the result of the long and constant presence of man: the emperor, the farmer, the shepherd, the woodsman who, along with the climate, have outlined the structure of one of the most unique places in the Mediterranean.

The territory of the National Park of Alta Murgia is characterized by a suggestive succession of scenarios that change drastically each season; it is the place where the history of man is tangible in the articulated mosaic that outlines the landscape of stone and tells stories of wandering shepherds, farmers engaged in the processing of milk and wool and in the cultivation of cereals, almond and vine; a territory that also tells stories of dinosaurs that crossed an ancient sea and ancestral men who lived with the first domestic animals in the numerous caves that creep into the rocky ridges, with numerous testimonies still visible today, after millennia of history.

There is also the historical evidence of the Norman-Swabian domination, whose traces are still present in many of the historic centers of the thirteen municipalities falling within the territory of the Park and that find their peak in the imposing UNESCO site of Castel del Monte, the iconic architecture of Apulia and Federician reign, UNESCO site since 1996.

For the one who is “lost” in the Alta Murgia the most recurrent sensation is that of being in a large open space in which to wander with the gaze towards infinite horizons characterized by the pungent smells of mint and wild thyme and to be able to enjoy iridescent and unique sunrises and sunsets.

MUNICIPALITIES: the formal focus is on the spine of PNAM involving Altamura, Andria, Gravina, Santeramo in Colle. In the inventory there are identified attractions spread in the other municipalities’ parks to enhance the integration of activities.

1.1 Taranto & Gravine

NATURAL REGIONAL PARK OF TERRA DELLE GRAVINE [PILOT AREA N. 3]

ph Mirabilia



From Gravina, at the border with Basilicata, we take via Appia, a Roman route which connects Rome with Ionic and Adriatic sea, through Campania rounding Naples, Venosa, Taranto and Brindisi. This route had a crucial military, economic and cultural role since 300 BC, testified by the numerous Stazioni di posta. These places were born as natural and then antropic sites where it was possible to take a break during the trip. Some of them remained active even after Roman Empire decade, changing accordingly with the times. It is the case of Masseria Jesce, in Altamura countryside. Human traces are from IV century BC and Mari's family built the fortified building in XVI century AD, for what we would call today a circular economy enterprise. Making use of the extensive lands, several activities were in place for garateering self-sustainability of the place. Masseria Jesce is a religious

and sacral site, natural carsic caves are placed on

amphitheatrical hills, one among them is the Saint Michael crypt with byzantine and baroque frescos. Walking via Appia to Taranto, slowly Murgia hills change, opening high kenjons with caves and ancient villages on the slopes. We arrive in the Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine of Taranto of 280 Km² area.

The gravine are ravines of deep karst rocky gorges. Their morphological peculiarities and microclimate generated an impressive biodiversity, as well as human settlements of the years. Rural villages, neolithic sites, hydraulic engineering and Byzantine frescoes are the main traces of the past times. Their highest concentration is in the areas of Massafra and Mottola. In order to preserve and promote them,

the Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine of Taranto operates to reach this goal. Park borders touch: PNAM, Valle d'Itria, Taranto Gulf and Salento. Due to that, this area is logistically strategic for travel across the region.

MUNICIPALITIES: the park is hosted by 14 municipalities: Ginosola, Laterza, Castellaneta, Palagianello, Mottola, Palagiano, Massafra, Statte, Crispiano, Martina Franca, Montemesola, Grottaglie, Villa Castelli, San Marzano di San Giuseppe.

1.4 Torre Guaceto

WWF OASIS OF TORRE GUACETO
[PILOT AREA N.3]

ph. Giorgia Esposito



Our trip restarts at the sunrise on Adriatic sea from the baroque Martina Franca in Valle d'Itria, with its Trulli, Masserie, its countryside as an extensive garden, the baroque architecture and music, as this land hosts the Festival della Valle d'Itria from 45 years, among the most important baroque music festival worldwide. From Martina Franca we take the Via Materana towards the Adriatic sea, on the other sense it arrives at Matera, the so-called Citta dei Sassi, entirely built in the rocks along the slope of a ravine. So we walk through Valle d'Itria, its olive trees, the Trulli of Alberobello, Locorotondo on its hill, and then we arrive in Ostuni, the so-called Città bianca. In this land are human traces from upper paleolithic, as well as Greeks,

Messapi age, Byzantine and Roman Empire, Federichan and modern age, due to its strategic position close to Brindisi. Few kilometers away from Ostuni is the WWF Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto, which extends for 12 Km², with the goal to protect the incredible area biodiversity of coastal Mediterranean Dune. This is the paradise for pure nature lovers, where you can fully experience uncontaminated terrestrial and marine environments, through a wide range of activities. They spread, from hiking to cycling, from horseback-riding to snorkeling and scuba diving, as well as relax and enjoy nature. The site has been selected for Blue Park Award by Marine Conservation Institute.

MUNICIPALITIES: The inventories' attractions are focused on Torre Guaceto natural reserve area hosted by Carovigno municipality. The Torre Guaceto destination management has asked to enlarge the border of this pilot area to the area of CETS (European Charter for sustainable tourism) hosted by 3 municipalities: Carovigno, San Vito dei Normanni, Brindisi to enhance the focus of activity of Medusa project.

1.5 Otranto-Leuca

REGIONAL NATURAL PARK OF OTRANTO-
LEUCA COAST AND BOSCO DI TRICASE
[PILOT AREA N.4]

ph. Paolo Laku



Our trip restarts from Torre Guaceto at sunset on the Adriatic sea, that we'll keep at our side on the Via Francigena-Litoranea. We walk part of the Cammino dei Fari (lighthouses' route), leaving Torre Guaceto we touch Brindisi, Rauccio Natural Park, San Cataldo Natural Reserve (few minutes away from Lecce), Natural Reserve Le Cesine and Alimini Lakes before arriving in Otranto. Otranto is also called "Porta d'Oriente" (Gateway to the East), since this is the eastern part of Italy and it has been among the strongest connection points in Mediterranean sea between East and West. First human traces are from the Neolithic age, while the town reached its central role in Mediterranean sea since Greeks and then Romans, becoming a coin mint. During the Middle age, the town increased its strategic importance, being one of the most important ports for Crusades to Holy Land. This brought strong religious traces such as the Cattedrale di Santa Maria Annunziata

in Romanic style, with its full pavimental mosaic representing the tree of life and its crypt with the skeletons of 800 martyrs from Turkish invasion of XIV century. The modern age brought new life to the town, as for the massive Aragones Castle, which hosts artistic and cultural projects nowadays. Otranto is also the door of our last pilot area: Regional Natural Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase. The park extends for 31 Km², covering the coastal area from Otranto to SM di Leuca. The coast is of rock cliffs sloping steeply in the sea, on which have been built incredible towns and architectures, such as Villa Sticchi in Santa Cesarea Terme in moresc style, where Carmelo Bene made his avantgarde movie masterpiece "Nostra Signora dei Turchi". The carsic rock generated several coastal caves, such as Grotta dei Cervi, Grotta Romanelli e le Grotte di Zinzulusa. Our trip goes through incontaminated nature with endemic species, crystalline sea, which invites you

to snorkeling, and typical coastal towns and ports where you can enjoy local culture and cuisine. We arrive in Santa Maria di Leuca, the southeast land in Puglia, where the Adriatic and Ionian sea meet. Here, enjoy the sunset on the Ionian sea, then contemplate the stars in the night drinking Primitivo wine and wait for the sunrise on the Adriatic sea.

MUNICIPALITIES: the park is hosted by 12 municipalities Alessano, Andrano, Castrignano del Capo, Castro, Corsano, Diso, Gagliano del Capo, Ortelle, Otranto, Santa Cesarea Terme, Tiggiano, Tricase.



2. ATTRACTION, INVENTORY FOR ADVENTURE TOURISM

2.1 Attractions List & Map for Adventure Tourism

2.1.1. Natural Resources

The last century brought enormous technology and production innovations worldwide, with an unprecedented environmental footprint. Despite in Puglia this footprint is very high compared to the past, the agriculture-driven economy and the anthropic distribution with no big metropolis helped to protect natural resources. Agriculture preserves a wide biodiversity, placing Puglia on the top of cultivar density for various crops such as olive, grapes, wheat and legumes.

Several parks and protected areas have been established over the past 50 years, with the aim to preserve special habitats and ecosystems across the region. Nowadays, the protected areas account for 13,8 % of total regional surface, which include: 2 national parks which host three UNESCO sites, 11 regional parks, 3 marine protected areas, 16 national reserves, 7 regional reserves, 3 other protected areas. Furthermore, the sites of interest for Natura 2000 project are 95 for a 5,360 Km² extension. Going ahead protected areas and natural reserves established in the last 5 decades, Puglia culture and lifestyle is strongly interconnected with nature, due to its ancient rural culture.

Nature lovers feel at home in Puglia, for the strong connection the region has with. Hiking and cycling are the most natural ways to move and slowly experience Puglia, even though in the last decade the number of adventure experiences you can do has strongly increased.

ATTRACTION MAP FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

with Pilot Areas Top Attractions

Legend:



National and Regional Parks



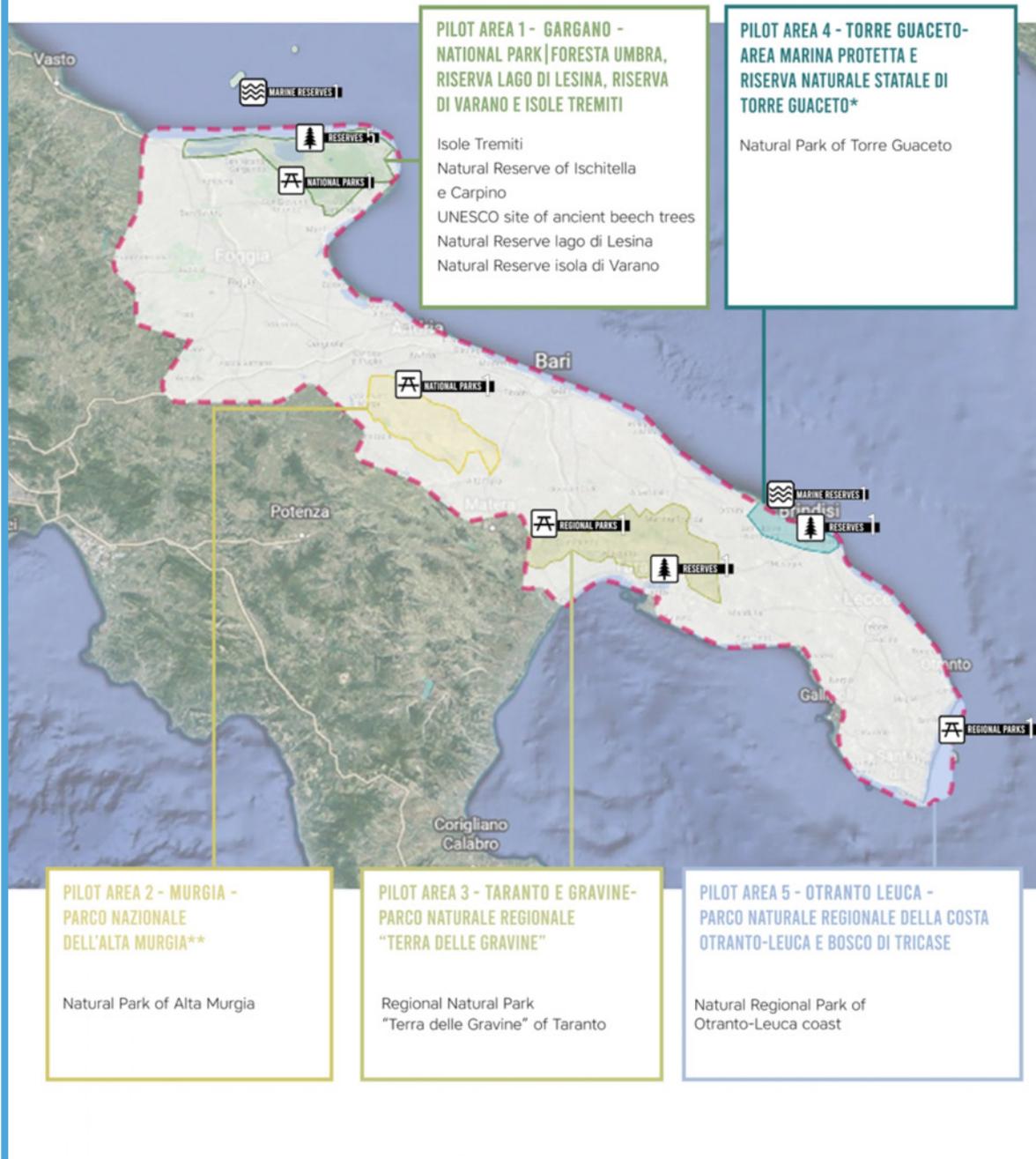
Natural Reserves and Protected Areas



Marine Reserves

* Pilot area border refers to the CEST area

**Formal focus on the spine of the PNAM, involving the municipalities of Andria, Gravina, Altamura, Santeramo in Colle





NATIONAL AND NATURAL PARKS



ph. Vanda Biffani

Nowadays, Puglia accounts for 16 national reserves, 18 protected regional areas, 3 marine protected areas and two national parks for 40 Natural parks and protected natural areas, for almost 2,700 Km² extension. These parks are spread in the whole region, protecting the different habitats and ecosystems. This is also because, out of the total of the almost 6.000 plant species known in Italy, as many as 2.500 (over 41%) are present in Puglia. In addition, there are 47 natural habitats, out of a total of 142 censuses in Europe. A unique wealth.

Among them 2 are the National Parks, which are the first two pilot areas. The first is the National Park of Gargano which covers a great part of Gargano's peninsula and where is the natural UNESCO site of the ancient beech trees hosted in the Natural Reserves of Umbra and Falascone. All the sites in Pilot area 1 are included in this National Park. The second National Park is

the one of Alta Murgia, that is pilot area number two. These are respectively the first and second parks for extension in the region. The regional natural parks are 11, of which two are pilot areas in this project. They are: Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine of Taranto (pilot area 3) and Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase (pilot area 5).

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Gargano peninsula is a plethora of natural biodiversity, protected areas, natural resources and parks. Here is the National Park of Gargano, which contains the sites of this pilot area. The park extends for 1,211 Km² making it the biggest park in Puglia and the fifth in Italy. Originally, this territory was fully covered by a millenary forest, which reduced over the years becoming the Foresta Umbra nowadays. The name origin is still uncertain. Most probable are from the ancient population Umbri which was placed here or from the latin "umbra": gloomy, shady. The site hosts three main

forest areas with beech, oaks and pine forests. By reducing the forest over the years, new habitats took place increasing the area biodiversity. Just to mention an example: this area is the richest in Europe for the presence of selvatic orchids, hosting 80 species and 17 genres. Further this area has a crucial role for trans-adriatic migration, linking Italy peninsula with Balkans. Other important habits are wet areas in the Gargano peninsula - which are Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Lake Reserve, Oasis of Salso Lake - as well as steppes and the Capitanata Gulf.

Site/Activity Name

Information Sources

National Park of Gargano

www.parcogargano.it

Murgia - National Park of Alta Murgia

Pilot area number 2 is the National Park of Alta Murgia. This park is in the middle of the region, separated from Gargano peninsula by Tavoliere delle Puglie and to the south by Ionic Gravine of Taranto. The park covers a part of the whole Murgia land, which extends in the south and Basilicata, covering the Murgia Materana, where the Città dei Sassi has its place. The park hosts two priority habitats, which are: "Grasslands on limestone substrate" and "Substepic paths of graminaceous and annual plants". Main feelings running

Murgia are a sense of vastness, freedom and horizontality, capturing sea, hills and mountains in a single glance. Here you can experience the strong link among nature and humans, which involved all kinds of people: the farmer, the shepherd, the emperor, the craftsman, the noble person and the eremit. All of them left a tangible sign you can experience today. Not just humans left a sign over millennia, it is the case of Cava Pontrelli in Altamura where there are traces of dinosaur.

Site/Activity Name

Information Sources

National Park of Alta Murgia

www.parcoaltamurgia.gov.it

Taranto & Gravine – Regional Park of Terre delle Gravine of Taranto

The Natural Regional Park of Gravine in Taranto is our pilot area number 3 and it extends for almost 280 Km² covering two provinces Taranto and Brindisi. The park borders at south with Taranto gulf with its calette¹ beaches, crystalline Ionic sea and Romans sites, at north with Valle d'Itria, at west with Alta Murgia and at east with Salento peninsula. The main habitat of the park is gravine which are ravines of deep karst rocky gorges. Their morphological peculiarities and microclimate generated

an impressive biodiversity, as well as human settlements of the years. This park is the paradise for adventure lovers, for the wide range of activities organised by local operators. We'll deep dive these activities in the proper chapter.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Regional Park of Terre delle Gravine of Taranto	www.provincia.taranto.it www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Torre Guaceto – WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

This area is protected by a WWF Oasis, however it is neither a National nor Natural Park, due to its small extension of just 10 Km².

1. Small sand beaches intervalled with rock coast

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

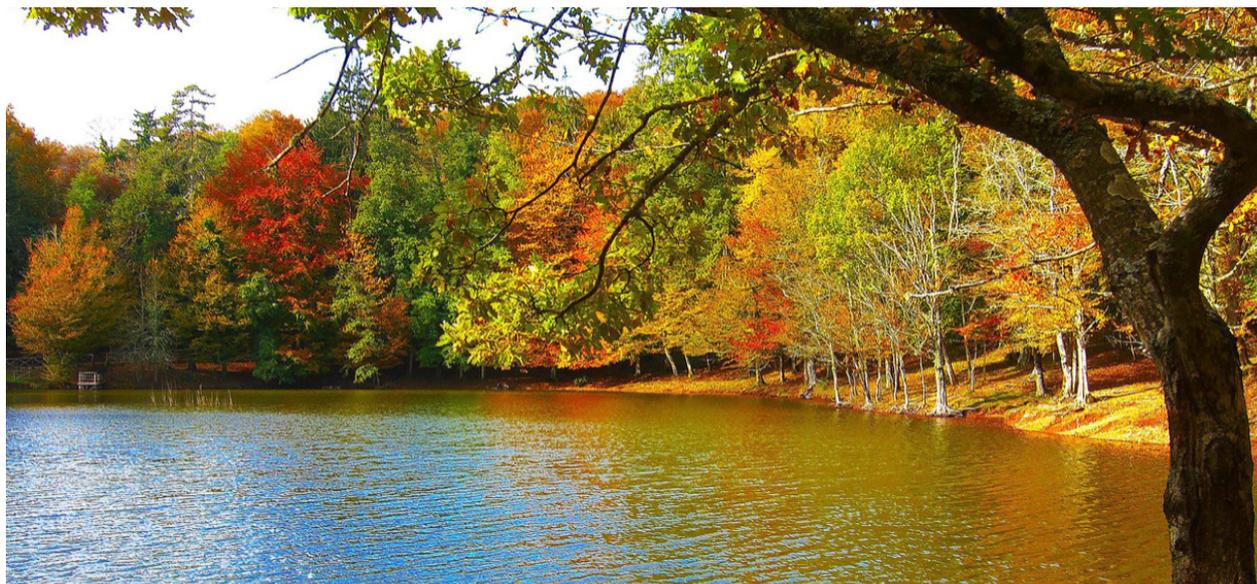
The Natural Park of the Coast Otranto-Leuca is the coastal park among the pilot areas of this project. The park covers the last 57 Km of the Adriatic Apulian coast. There are three main parallel zones flora: first is the coast of carsic rock cliffs sloping steeply in the sea where are important endemic species, second is the pseudo-steppes zone and finally the flat land of pastures. Farms are along the coast, which produce local high quality caesarean products due to the endemic fauna of this area. The carsic nature of the rocks generated over millennia numerous caves on the coast. It is the

case of Grotta dei Cervi (Otranto) , Grotta Romanelli (Castro) e le Grotte di Zinzulusa (Castro). The first two are not accessible for the public, since they are among the most important archaeological sites of Paleolithic and Neolithic ages, with traces of 70,000 years ago or even more. While the Grotte di Zinzulusa are accessible to the public and it is a marine cave, mainly covered by sea and fresh water. This cave takes its name from the dialect zinzuli, which means trattes for the shape of stalactites. In this cave, Carmelo Bene shot the same scene of the movie "Nostra Signora dei Turchi" in 1968.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast	http://www.parcootrantoleuca.it/



NATURAL RESERVES AND PROTECTED AREAS



ph. Gino Fusco

Natural reserves are key tools for the protection of the Natural heritage of the region. Strategic sites are protected Natural Reserves as for: Isole Tremiti,

Laguna di Varano and Lago di Lesina, Torre Guaceto WWF Oasis and the UNESCO site of Reserves of ancient beech trees (Flascone and Umbra).

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

All the natural reserves in the pilot area of Gargano are part of the National Park of Gargano. This overlap is due to the

chronological establishment of natural reserves over the years.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Isole Tremiti	www.isoletremiti.it
Ischitella and Carpino	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Varano Reserve	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Lesina Lake Reserve	www.parks.it
Reserves of ancient beech trees (Flascone e Umbra)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

The whole pilot area consists of the National Park of Alta Murgia, therefore there are no further protected areas. Analysing this territory on a broader perspective there

are other protected areas close to the pilot borders which range from the coast to the Basilicata border.

Taranto & Gravine – Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The whole pilot area consists of the Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine of Taranto, therefore there are no further protected areas. Looking at the extended area of the municipalities

involved, we can identify three natural reserves which are complementary to the park borders. These natural reserves are: Murge Orientali, Bosco delle Pianelle and WWF Oasis of Monte Sant'Elia.

Torre Guaceto – WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

The WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto has an incredible biodiversity, despite the short extension of just 11 Km². The site is of strong communitarian interest with the Natura 2000 project, where there are listed 20 habitats of which 6 are priority belonging to this area. The natural reserve involves both a marine and terrestrial reserve. The

marine reserve also hosts the Center for recovering Marine Turtles “Luigi Cantoro”. While, the terrestrial reserve presents Mediterranean scrub, forests, caves, and wet zones.

From 2016, the site is ECST² certified by European Parliament.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto	http://www.riservaditorreguaceto.it/

Otranto-Leuca – Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

The whole pilot area consists of the Regional Natural Park of Otranto-Leuca coast, therefore there are no further

protected areas. Anyhow, there are many other protected areas in the Salento peninsula.

2. ECST is the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in a protected area provided by EUROPARC.

2.1.2. Cultural Resources

The Puglia region is in the middle of Mediterranean sea, becoming over the centuries a strategic land for Mediterranean control and a must point for many routes. Due to that, many cultures and civilizations come in the region, leaving each its own sign. Traces of past cultures come from all over the Mediterranean basin and they are of

different types: from architecture to cuisine, from art to religion and language. In a few words: Puglia is a land of spatial and temporal synthesis of cultures. It's cultural identity and resource can be summarized in openness, curious spirit and integration toward other cultures. Maybe this is the reason hosting is in the blood of apulian people.



ph. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Altamura

ATTRACTION MAP FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

with Pilot Areas Top Attractions

- Legend:
- Festival
 - Underwater cultural heritage
 - Unesco heritage
 - Museum
 - Historical sites & forts
 - Traditions
 - Art Craft
 - Religious sites
 - Archeological sites





ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The whole region is full of archaeological sites from Gargano peninsula to Salento peninsula. There are so many, that in some rural areas it is possible to find archeological traces just by walking in the countryside and digging a little bit. These sites range from paleolithic and neolithic

ages to Greek, Roman/Byzantine ages, as well as Middle age. Unfortunately, only few and most important sites are mapped and the information is not easily available, because of the high number and the low interest in past years.

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Archaeological sites range from neolithic age to nowadays sites. Within this pilot area are two main sites: the archeological park Pannoni and the archeological site and necropolis of Merinum. The first site is a cave site with early christian, low Middle age and XIX century; while the second takes its name from a Roman villa of I^o

century, further in a caving site close to the villa is one of the most important pre Christian necropolis in the Mediterranean basin, with more than 300 tombs. Finally the Paleontological Museum and Park of Dinosaurus in San Marco in Lamis is a key archaeological site and knowledge center in the National Park of Gargano.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Archeological park Pannoni (Cagnano Varano, Foggia)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Archeological site and Necropolis of Merinum (Vieste, Foggia)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

The National Park of Alta Murgia is one of the most important prehistoric archeological sites in the Puglia region. In fact, here are: Lamalunga cave and the

Man of Altamura, still in Altamura is the site with traces of dinosaur, while in Corato are both the Necropoli of San Magno and the Dolmen Chianca dei Paladini.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Lamalunga cave and the Man of Altamura (Altamura, Bari)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Pontrelli quarry and dinosaurs parks (Altamura, Bari)	www.paleoitalia.org
Necropolis of San Magno (Corato, Bari)	www.fondoambiente.it
Dolmen Chianca dei Paladini (Bisceglie, BAT)	www.pugliaimperiale.com

Taranto & Gravine – Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The third pilot area of the Regional Natural Park Terra delle Gravine has archaeological sites from different ages,

which range from Neolithic age to pre Crishian age and Middle age.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Archeological Park of Santa Maria Dattoli (Ginosa, Taranto)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Dolmen of Statte (Statte, Taranto)	www.comunedistatte.gov.it

Torre Guaceto – WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

In recent years an archeological site has been discovered in the oasis with traces form II and I millenia AC.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Archeological site in Torre Guaceto (Carovigno, Brindisi)	www.riservaditorreguaceto.it
Marine archeological site of Torre Santa Sabina (Carovigno, Brindisi)	www.italy-croatia.eu

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

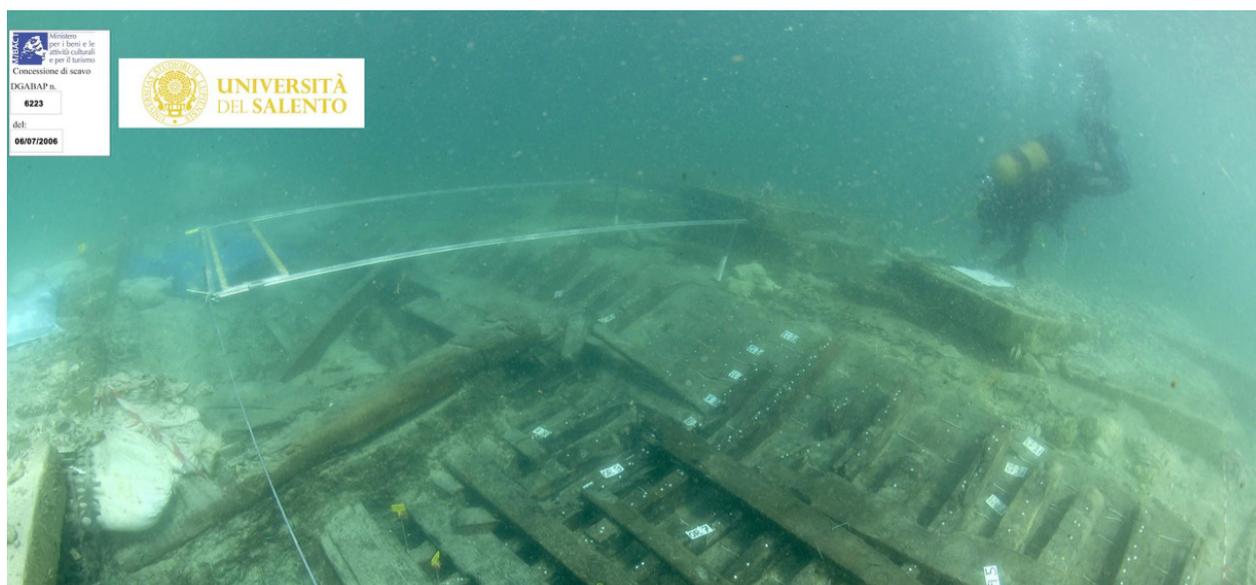
The Salento peninsula is very rich in terms of archeological sites of various ages, from bronze and iron ages, as well as Greeks and Messapi. In the selected pilot area there are archeological sites in most of the municipalities involved in the park, with traces of rupestre villages and Messapi defensive walls. Among them, some are really interesting: Menhir Vardare in Diso with its T-shape, the Vora

di Andrano and the site in the two caves, which are not accessible for the public: Grotta dei Cervi in Otranto and Grotta Romanelli in Castro. Archeological finds of these caves are in the Archeological Museum of Castro. Further, the remains of a Minerva temple have been recently found in an ongoing archeological site in the center of Castro.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Menhir Vardaren (Diso, Lecce)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Grotta dei Cervi (Otranto, Lecce)	www.comune.otranto.le.it



UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE



ph. Exhibition and catalogue

“Nel mare dell’intimità. L’archeologia subacquea racconta il Salento”

(Brindisi, Aeroporto del Salento, 05.07.2019 – 10.01.2021);

Catalogue by A. Antonazzo, R. Auriemma, G. Tinunin, Lecce 2019

The Apulian seas host an important unseen cultural heritage, which are traces and testimonials of the central role of this land into the Mediterranean basin. Underwater finds and sites vary into 2000 years of history, some of them are stored into dedicated museums, as for AA or BB, while others remain underwater and are accessible for patented scuba divers, or also for beginner ones in some sites. In the last years important studies have been conducted or are still ongoing, as for those led by the University of Salento, or the European project UNDERWATERMUSE.

Nowadays, the total sites are more than 650 only in the Salento peninsula and the most important ones are all along the region, located in the pilot areas or very close to them:

Tremiti underwater treasure: in the Tremiti Island sea is an underwater treasure of shipwrecks from I c. AC to XVIII c. DC. Among the most important are Il carico delle tre streghe (The load of the three witches) a luxury commercial load from XXI centuries ago, and the Relitto Lombardo (Lombard shipwrecks) from the Expedition of the Thousands led by Garibaldi in middle of the nineteenth century.

Salapia & Margherita di Savoia: this has been an important antropic site since Roman ages to Medieval one, today not yet visible. Several findings are underwater as for the commercial shipwrecks of Roman age out of Margherita di Savoia.

Torre Santa Sabina: The incredible underwater site of Torre Santa Sabina sites 8 km north to Torre Guaceto, strengthening the cultural and experiential assets of this small area. The site is under

pilot study within the European project UNDERWATERMUSE, in partnership with the three universities of the region.

Ionic coast findings: The main studies on the underwater archeology in the region are from the '60s directed by Peter Throckmorton. They are focused mainly in the Salento peninsula, Ionic findings are an important part of the studies, as for the sites of San Pietro in Bevagna, La Madonnina, Torre Chianca or Porto Cesareo. Many of the findings are part of the Archeological National Museum of Taranto.

Porto Badisco: the underwater treasure in Porto Badisco reveals the most important traces of the active role of this site from archaic ages to Medieval ones. Most important ones are from Roman and Medieval ages, due to the closeness to the port of Otranto.

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

The Tremiti Islands sea hosts an important underwater cultural heritage, covering more than two millennia. The three main important sites are part of this study and cover more than two millennia. The first two are part of the shipwrecks findings from I c. AC to XVIII c. DC. The first is Il

carico delle tre streghe (The load of the three witches) a luxury commercial load from XXI centuries ago, and the second is Relitto Lombardo (Lombard shipwrecks) from the Milles army led by Garibaldi in middle of the nineteenth century.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Underwater sculpture of Padre Pio	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Il carico delle tre streghe (The load of the three witches)	www.tremiti.eu
Relitto Lombardo (Lombard shipwrecks)	www.parks.it

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

The incredible underwater site of Torre Santa Sabina is located 8 km north to Torre Guaceto, strengthening the cultural and experiential assets of this small area.

The site is under the pilot study within the European project UNDERWATERMUSE, in partnership with the three universities of the region.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Torre Santa Sabina	www.italy-croatia.eu

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

The main studies on the underwater archeology in the region are from the '60s directed by Peter Throckmorton. They are focused mainly in the Salento peninsula, of which this pilot area is part of. Among the most important sites is Porto Badisco:

its underwater treasure preserved most important traces of the active role of this site from archaic ages to Medieval ones. Most important ones are from Roman and Medieval ages, due to the closeness to the port of Otranto.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Porto Badisco	www.comune.otranto.le.it



HISTORIC SITES AND FORTS



ph. Vanda Biffani

The strategic position of the region made it a coveted land, with many attacks by enemies. For defending from attacks and leaving a power sign on the territory, many castles and forts have been built over the centuries. Therefore, Greeks, Japigi, Messapi, Dauni, Romans, Svevans, Angevins and Aragonese left their power and defensive architectural traces all along the Region. Castles and Forts are almost 300 in the whole region.

Most of these sites underwent several changes over the years and domains, preserving architectural and techniques layers which are still visible today. For instance, towers or reinforcements have been built on Norman castles during the Federichan ages and then still change for religious usage, or yet Aragonese castles have been built on the imponent Messapi defensive walls, later used as jales.

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

The Gargano peninsula has been over centuries land of castle and forts for its strategic position and the cliffs on the sea which are a natural defense and watching point. Main traces of these architectures start from low Middle age, as for the Castle of Monte Sant’Angelo, and become

stronger during the Svevian domain. There are also architectures from later ages, as Castello di Ischitella, also known as Palazzo Ventrella, which is a sign of feudal power of the Reign of Naples and has been built on the ruin of a Svevian Castle destroyed by the earthquake of 1640.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Castle of Monte Sant’Angelo	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Svevian-Norman Castle in Vico del Gargano	www.galgargano.com
Castle of Ischitella (Palazzo Ventrelli)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Svevian Castle of Vieste	www.vieste.it/castello

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

There is a hill in the countryside of Andria and Corato from which you can watch Murgia land on one side, the Adriatic sea from the other till Gargano peninsula in the clear days. On the top of this hill is Castel del Monte, perhaps the most iconic architecture of the Puglia Region. Its octagonal plant made it unforgettable, as well as the astronomical and

mathematical precision for which has been listed as UNESCO heritage in 1996. Anyhow, it is not the unique historic site in the Park of Alta Murgia. Here is also the Castello di Gravina and many Masserie fortificate, which are fortified rural villages. It is the case of Masseria Jesce in Altamura on the via Appia built in the XVII century.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Castel del Monte	www.casteldelmonte.beniculturali.it
Castle of Gravina	www.fondazionesantomasi.it
Masseria Jesce	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The highest presence of historical sites is of caves along the Gravine's cliffs, which hosted the first human presence in this area, then the pre Christian community and finally hermits coming from the Mediterranean basin.

The strong medieval presence in Puglia is visible also in the Regional Natural Park

"Terra delle Gravine". Here we cite three castles in the municipalities of the park, which represent three steps of that time: Longobard domain (Castle of Massafra), Norman domain (Castle of Ginosa), and XVI century with feudal age (Castle of Stella Caracciolo).

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Castle of Massafra	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Castle of Ginosa	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Castle of Stella Caracciolo	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

In this WWF oasis is the Aragonese Tower which dominates the land and sea. The tower was built in the XV century, after a strong attack from the Venice army toward San Vito Carovigno. Anyhow other attacks took place in the previous

three centuries from the Turks, who chose the place for the position, the presence vegetation and mostly the presence of fresh water. In fact the name of the site comes from the arab "Gaw sit" which means freshwater channel.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Torre Aragonese	http://www.riservaditorreguaceto.it/index.php/it/la-riserva/la-torre-aragonese

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

Salento peninsula has been called in the past Magna Grecia, with the presence of Messapi. Main traces of this age are the defensive walls which are still visible in Salento, as for Castro. Here is also an example of sedimentary architecture with its castle built during Aragonese on rest byzantine fortress and Messapi wall, which are still visible in the lower part of the defensive walls. Another important castle

is the one of Otranto, for its historical role, whose first fonts are from the X century. We also mention the Castle of Andrano, as an example of Masserie fortificate in Salento, for the styles overlapped over the centuries, because it was adopted by a child class who is taking care of it and since it is the office of the organization that manages this pilot area. means freshwater channel.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Castle of Otranto	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Castle of Andrano	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Castle of Castro	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it



MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS



ph. Marino Colucci

The numerous archeological sites raised in the last century, generated an enormous heritage of archeological finds. Several museums have been established for hosting and valorizing this heritage, which are spread all over the region. Due to that the major part of museums are archeological museums in Puglia. The most important are: Civic Museum of Foggia, Archeological Museum of Bari, National Archeological Museum of Taranto and Castromediano Museum in Lecce.

Looking forward archeological heritage, other important museums and exhibits are: diocesan museums, such as Diocesan Museum of Bari, picture galleries, such as Pinocoteca de Nittis in Barletta and

Pinacoteca Cantatore in Ruvo, where is also Museo Jatta with most extensive collection of Greek art in Puglia.

The strong investment of the Puglia Region in culture and art, generated numerous very active and innovative labs all along the region, as well as centers and museums of contemporary art. The most important is Museo Pino Pascali in Polignano a Mare.

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Main museums in this are archaeological, rural and religious museums. Archaeological museums are Antiquarium civico of Vico del Gargano and Archaeological Museum of Vieste, for rural cultural is really interesting the Museo di Arti e Tradizioni popolari del

Gargano in Monte Sant’Angelo, where is also the religious museum Museo della Basilica di San Michele Arcangelo. Finally, here we mention the Museo Malacologico in Vieste where you can enjoy the natural underwater heritage from all around the world.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Museo arti e tradizioni popolari del Gargano “G. Tancredi” (Museum of arts and folk traditions of Gargano “G.Tancredi”)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Musei della basilica di San Michele (Museums of the Basilica of St. Michael)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Antiquarium civico di Vico del Gargano (Civic antiquarium Museum of Vico del Gargano)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Museo civico archeologico di Vieste (Civic Archaeological Museum of Vieste)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Museo malacologico di Vieste (Malacological museum of Vieste)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Musei delle zone umide (Museums of the wetlands)	www.museocagnanovarano.it
Museo del territorio e della cultura lagunare (Cagnano Varano) & Centro Visite Lesina (Museum of the laguna territory and culture Cagnano Varano & Lesina Visit Centre)	www.centrovisitelesina.it

Taranto & Gravine – Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The unique environment of Gravine Ioniche favored human settlement over the years. In fact, the archeological sites revealed

an incredible heritage of finds, which are hosted in the Museo Archeologico di Taranto.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Museo Nazionale Archeologico di Taranto MARTA (National Archaeological Museum of Taranto MARTA)	www.museotaranto.beniculturali.it

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

You can experience a time jump in terms of Museums and Exhibitions, in the National Park of Alta Murgia. Here are the MUDA (Museums network of Man of Altamura) and Museo Archeologico Nazionale Jatta in Ruvo di Puglia, among the most important archeological museums of the region. On the other hand, here are also

Pinacoteca Cantatore, Galleria Nazionale Devanna and Museo Fondazione Pomarici-Santomasi for contemporary and modern art lovers. Rural culture is the link among these two times, a timeless culture you can experience in the Museo della civiltà rurale di Altamura.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
MUDA (Museums network of Man of Altamura)	www.uomodialtamura.it
Rural Civilization Museum of Altamura	www.prolocoaltamura.it
Jatta National Archeological Museum	www.palazzojatta.org
Pinacoteca Cantatore	www.ruvosistemamuseale.it
Devanna National Gallery	www.gallerianazionalepuglia.beniculturali.it
Museum of Foundation Pomarici-Santomasi	www.fondazionesantomasi.it

Torre Guaceto – WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

In the WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto is the Visit Center Al Gawsit, which takes the name from the origin arab name given by Turkish in the X century. The center is

close to the protected area and aims to introduce you to the Oasis by innovative and interactive experiences.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Visit Center Al Gawsit	www.riservaditorreguaceto.it

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

The fifth pilot area has three heterogeneous museums, which are really interesting. From north to south. Faro di Palascia - Museo Ecologia degli ecosistemi del Mediterraneo is a natural museum in a

lighthouse, which is part of lighthouses' route, which focuses on the ecology of Mediterranean basin ecosystem. Then

is the Museo Archeologico di Castro "Antonio Lazzari", which hosts the main archeological finds of Salento east coast. Finally, Museo Vito Mele, hosted in the Santuario di

Santa Maria di Leuca, hosts a really interesting contemporary art selection.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Museo Archeologico di Castro "Antonio Lazzari" (Castro Archaeological Museum "Antonio Lazzari")	www.museoarcheologicocastro.it
Faro di Palascia - Museo Ecologia degli ecosistemi del Mediterraneo (Palascia Lighthouse - Museum on Ecology of Mediterranean Ecosystems)	www.comune.otranto.le.it
Museo Vito Mele (Vito Mele Museum)	www.museomele.it



ph. Dario Dealto

Maybe Puglia is mainly a spiritual land. You can feel a spiritual link walking on Gargano mountains, experiencing the timeless horizontality of Murgia, the vertical holes through Gravine Ioniche, and the Adriatic door to the East in the “South of South of Saints”³.

Religious traces are spread all along the region and all along the time: prehistoric necropolis, Messapi and greek rests of

temples, pre-Christian sites in the caves, Byzantine icons and basilica, Longobard sanctuaries, Romanesque churches and cathedrals, Barocco Leccese, neo classical and contemporary sacral art and architecture. Just to mention some of them.

In this paragraph we will go through the five pilot areas showing the most interesting religious sites and experiences.

3. “Il Sud del Sud dei Santi” is a quote from Carmelo Bene autobiography “Sono apparso alla Madonna”. This sentence took inspiration from San Giovanni Desa da Copertino.

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Gargano peninsula has several religious sites from various ages. The most ancient of them have been presented in the Archeological sites paragraph, such as the Necropolis of Merinum. In this pilot area there is the most important Michaelic

site worldwide, with the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo in Monte Sant’Angelo, which is an UNESCO site. This area hosts also important examples of Romanesque, Longobard, rural, Byzantine, Baroque and Angiovin religious architectures.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Abbazia di Santa Maria a Mare – Isole Tremiti (Santa Maria a Mare Abbey – Tremiti Islands)	www.fondoambiente.it
Chiesa di Santa Maria Pura del Gargano –Vico (Santa Maria Pura del Gargano Church – Vico)	www.fondoambiente.it
Abbazia di Santa Maria di Càlena –Peschici (Church of Santa Maria di Càlena – Peschici)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Basilica Cattedrale di Vieste (Vieste Cathedral)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Abbazia ed Eremi di Santa Maria di Pulsano – Monte Sant’Angelo (Santa Maria di Pulsano Abbey and Eremi – Monte Sant’Angelo)	www.abbaziadipulsano.org
Complesso S. Maria Maggiore e Tomba di Rotari (S. Maria Maggiore Complex and Tomb of Rotharis)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

Here we are at the core of Romanesque art. In the municipalities of Parco Nazionale dell’Alta Murgia are among the most important architecture of Romanesque age, such as: Cattedrale dell’Assunta of Altamura, Basilica Pontificia Concattedrale di Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo of Bitonto and Concattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta of Ruvo di Puglia. Other important religious sites are the Convento di San Domenico

in Altamura and Concattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta in Gravina di Puglia. There is a strong worship toward Madonna Maria, as we can see from the names of cathedrals and churches.

Other important religious sites are of rural churches, such as Chiesetta di San Magno in the countryside of Corato.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Cattedrale dell'Assunta - Altamura (Assunta Cathedral - Altamura)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Convento di San Domenico - Altamura (Convent of San Domenico - Altamura)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Basilica Pontificia Concattedrale di Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo - Bitonto (Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo Cathedral - Bitonto)	www.cattedralebitonto.com
Concattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta - Gravina (Co-Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta - Gravina)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Concattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta - Ruvo di Puglia (Co-Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta - Ruvo di Puglia)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The Renaissance, Baroque and Neoclassical ages became stronger moving to the south from Alta Murgia. As for the use in the past, the most interesting architectures took place from previous architectures in the site, which was Byzantine, Medieval or rural religious sites. Here is one of the best architectural integration with nature,

with the case of Chiesa Matrice della Madonna del SS. Rosario in Ginosa is strongly interconnected with the Gravine landscape. For sacral art lovers, the rural frescos in Santuario Mater Domini of Laterza and the Byzantine fresco in Santuario della Madonna della Scala in Massafra are unmissable.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Chiesa Matrice della Madonna del SS. Rosario - Ginosa (Mother Church of the Madonna del SS. Rosario - Ginosa)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Santuario Mater Domini - Laterza (Sanctuary of Mater Domini - Laterza)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Santuario della Madonna della Scala - Massafra (Sanctuary of the Madonna della Scala - Massafra)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Basilica di San Martino - Martina Franca (Basilica of San Martino - Martina Franca)	www.it.wikipedia.org

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

There are no religious sites in this pilot area.

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

The Adriatic coast of Salento peninsula is the door to the east, the strong connection with the east is visible in historic traces in this land. Connections sometimes are cruel, as for the Turkish attack to Otranto of 1480, when 800 autochthon man had been decapitated because they did not convert to Islam. Traces of this event are the Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Martiri of XVII century and the incredible Cappella dei Santi Martiri in the Cattedrale di Santa Maria Annunziata of Otranto, where are preserved the skeletons of the 800 martyrs. This cathedral is also an incredible

example of architectural overlap, here were: a Messapi village, a Roman domus, a paleochristian temple and a Normann foundation. Other interesting religious sites are the Cripta di Sant'Elena/San Solomo of Byzantine age and the Basilica Santuario di Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae of Neo Classical age, which takes its name from its geographical positions. De finibus terrae means in Latin the end of the land. Obviously, if you are in this area, take your time moving into the land and visit the majestic Lecce Baroque.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Cattedrale di Santa Maria Annunziata - Otranto (Cathedral of Santa Maria Annunziata - Otranto)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Cripta di Sant'Elena o San Solomo - Uggiano la Chiesa (Crypt of Sant'Elena or San Solomo)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Basilica Santuario di Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae - Santa Maria di Leuca (Basilica of Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae Sanctuary - Santa Maria di Leuca)	www.it.wikipedia.org



ph. Carlo Elmiro Bevilacqua

In Puglia are three UNESCO sites plus one under candidature:

- Castel del Monte: perhaps the most known architecture of Friedrich II Emperor, with its octagonal plant is unique worldwide.
- Trulli di Alberobello: trulli are autoctone stone-made rural buildings from 15th century with unmistakable conic-shape roof
- Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo: Built in 490 A.D. It is one of the most important sites for the cult of Saint Archangel Michael. In fact, it is part of the 7 point Saint Archangel Michael straight line touching Ireland, England, French, Italy (2), Greece and Israel.

- Ancient beech trees forest: this natural site is within the National Park of Gargano

Castel Fiorentino di Torremaggiore is a site with ancient ruins of a byzantine city and where the Federicus II Emperor died. This site candidature is actually under UNESCO valuation.

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Here is Monte Sant’Angelo: the town of the two UNESCO sites. It is a small town of almost 12.000 inhabitants and it hosts two UNESCO sites: one of cultural and religious interest, the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo, the second one is of naturalistic interest, the Foresta Umbra.

The Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo since 480 AD has been a strong reference

point in the Mediterranean culture. It is a key step of Cammino Micaelico which touches the Sagra of San Michele and Mont Saint Michel. Foresta Umbra, instead, is a forest protected area and it is the remaining area of the ancient Garganing forest which covered the whole peninsula.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Ancient beech trees forest (Umbra e Falascone)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

The number eight in architecture remembers Castel del Monte, the UNESCO site in Parco Nazionale dell’Alta Murgia. Octagonal plant, eight octagonal plant towers, eight main rooms per floor, octagonal patio and so on. The number eight is the number of new creation and infinity in esoteric tradition.

The Castle is located in the municipality of Andria, in a place from which you can cover with a look the sea from Gargano to Bari and beyond in clear days, as well as the Murgia promontory. It is not so clear why the Federicus II Emperor decided

to build this mysterious architecture. For sure it is not the most comfortable architecture for living in, with no kitchens, no bedrooms, no defensive engineering. Many hypotheses have been formulated over the years, those related to utilitarian aims (hunting, defense, control etc) can be discarded for unchorence with the other many architectures. The most suggestive hypothesis is it was an initiatic experience building, something similar to contemporary art installation, but on architecture level, involving all the senses and consciousness.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Castel del Monte	www.casteldelmonte.beniculturali.it



FESTIVALS



ph. Carlo Elmiro Bevilacqua

Cultural and artistic festivals have strongly increased in the last years, shaping a new identity of the Region. They spread across several artistic forms: music, contemporary art, dance, cinema, theater, food and experience-driven festivals. This is the result of a strong

strategic investment program in art and culture by the Puglia Region. Among the most interesting festivals are: Notte della Taranta, Festival della Valle d'Itria, Locus Festival, Bif&st, Locomotive Jazz Festival, VIVA! Festival, Carpino Folk Festival, Verso Sud Festival and Talos Festival.

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Gargano peninsula has a strong connection with its tradition and culture and this reflects in the cultural and artistic production, too. Looking into the pilot area, there are two unique productions worldwide. The first is the “Carpino Folk Festival” in the town of Carpino. This festival was born 24 years ago from the ancient tradition of Cantori di Carpino, which is a music and singing tradition of Gargano. In the last edition the geographical and ages contamination is strongly increasing, bringing international and experimental artists on the stage interacting with the local one.

The second important cultural and artistic production is the meeting point among cinema and cammini, the hiking tradition of this land. It is the “Mònde Fest” in Monte Sant’Angelo, the festival of the cinema of cammini. The name is a glocal wordplay, meaning Monte Sant’Angelo in local language and world in French. National and international documentary filmmakers come for sharing their work contaminated by other arts.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Carpino Folk Festival	www.carpinofolkfestival.com
Mònde Fest	www.mondefest.it

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

National Park of Alta Murgia hosts among the most interesting experimental cultural productions of the region. Here traditions and advanguard coexist, as they are of the same substance, feeding each other. Two main production pillars have consolidated over the years, one is related mainly to music, creating a tale among genres, local traditions and places. In this group are: “Talos Festival” in Ruvo di Puglia, “Suoni della Murgia”, and “Bitonto Blues Festival”.

The second pillar is related to experience-driven productions, for these there is no major art, rather several forms of art are used for building a new community experience. Among these productions are: “Festival Castel dei Mondi” in Andria, “Festival dei Claustri” in Altamura, “Verso Sud Festival” in Corato and “Luci e Suoni d’Artista” in Ruvo di Puglia.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Talos Festival	www.talosfestival.wordpress.com
Suoni della Murgia (Sounds of Murgia)	www.suonidellamurgia.net
Bitonto Blues Festival	www.bitontobluesfestival.it
Festival Castel dei Mondì	www.casteldeimondi.com
Festival dei Claustri	www.festivaldeiclaustri.it
Verso Sud Festival	www.versosudfestival.it
Luci e Suoni d'Artista (Artist's Lights and Sounds)	www.luciesuonidartista.it

Taranto & Gravine – Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The Gravine ioniche area and the adjoining Valle d'Itria are very active and excelling in terms of cultural and artistic production. In this extended area are among the most important national and european festivals: "Locus Festival" in Locorotondo, "Medimex" in Taranto and "Festival della Valle d'Itria" in Martina Franca. The latter is in the pilot area and it is a worldwide cultural and artistic reference for philology music. In the last editions contaminations with other cultures, arts and places took

places making the whole Valle d'Itria territory an unique scenography. Other interesting productions are: "Carsica Festival" a multi art festival among Gravine's towns, "Cinzella Festival" an image and indie-pop sound festival in Grottaglie, "Vicoli Corti" a short movies festival in the peripheries of Massafra and "Mottola Guitar Festival" a guitar-centric festival in the old town of Mottola where best guitarists worldwide come for concerts, masterclass and competitions.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Festival della Valle d'Itria	www.festivaldellavalleditria.it
Carsica Festival	www.carsicafestival.it
Cinzella Festival	www.cinzellafestival.com
Vicoli Corti	www.vicolicorti.it
Mottola Guitar Festival	www.mottolafestival.com/it

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

The uncontaminated nature of the Oasis is an incredible scenography for concerts and performances, which took place

mainly in summer. Anyhow, there are no specific festivals or cultural productions in this area. .

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

The high tourist flows in the last two decades strongly increased the need and offer of cultural, artistic and entertainment productions in Salento. The most important event is the summer "Notte della Taranta", which is spread in the whole Salento. It takes origin from the ancient tarantolate tradition: a sacred and profane cathartic rite, for which women got bites from tarantulas, making them

dancing crazily for a day under Tarantella⁴ ritmo. Nowadays it is mainly a pop festival. Other important cultural productions are: "OFFF Otranto Film Festival", "Festival della scienza di Andrano", "Etnica Diso Folk Festival", "Pyrex Arena" an electronic festival in Santa Cesarea Terme and "SIFF Salento International Film Festival" in Tricase

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Notte della Taranta	www.lanottedellataranta.it
OFFF Otranto Film Festival	www.otrantofilmfundfestival.it
Etnica Diso Folk Festival	www.etnicadisofolkfestival.it
Pyrex Arena	www.pyrexarena.it
SIFF Salento International Film Festival	www.salentofilmfestival.com

4. Tarantella is the local traditional music made mainly with tamburello. The music is very ritmic, going faster and faster, simulating the tarantula bit effect.



ph. Fondazione Carnevale di Putignano

The central position of Puglia in the Mediterranean basin brought so many cultures and influences, making Puglia an open minded land and a cradle of culture. Here, you can experience an incredible number of traditions and rites, where sacred and profane are often mixed. It is the system of the Apulian carnivals among which they detach that one of Massafra and Putignano, with its 626th edition is among the most ancient and artistic carnivals in the world. The story, handed down by oral tradition, wants that the peasants of Putignano engaged in grafting vines with the technique of the

offshoot, at the passage of the procession abandoned fields and work to join the procession festively, dancing, singing and improvising. Thus was born the "Festa delle Propaggini", the one that marks the beginning of the longest Carnival in Italy and the oldest in Europe. With the fire tradition, christian and pagan cultures are mixed, as for the Falò di San Giuseppe and Focara di Novoli. Among the so many religious rites and fests, here we mention the Festa di San Nicola in Bari, an appointment for millions of christians and orthodoxes.

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Traditions are mainly religious in the Gargano peninsula, due to the strong Micaelic worship. This worship synthesizes many elements from Egyptian, Christian and pagan religions, reflecting in iconography and cosmology too. The saint is celebrated two times, one close to the autumn equinox, the 29th of September, the other one during the spring equinox, the 8th May. Both recurrences increased over the years the cultural offer and contamination with other Micaelic sites, mainly Sagra di San Michele in Val di Susa and Mont Saint Michel in France. Another

important religious tradition is the Saint Valentine fest in Vico del Gargano, the so-called saint of lovers. A little bit out of the selected pilot area is the Carnevale of Manfredonia, among the most interesting profane traditions in this land. Further we cite the Passion Rites, which are active in the whole Gargano area (s.a. S. Marco in Lamis, Vico del Gargano and Monte Sant'Angelo), and the Fanoja di San Giuseppe in Vieste, which is the bonfire rite active all along the Region, which is celebrated the 21st of March.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Festa patronale di San Michele Arcangelo (Patronal Feast of San Michele Arcangelo)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
San Valentino (Vico del Gargano)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Carnevale di Manfredonia (Carnival of Manfredonia)	www.carnevaledimanfredonia.it
Fanoja di San Giuseppe (Vieste)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Murgia - National Park of Alta Murgia

Looking at Alta Murgia, traditions mix sacre and profane. Among the most dynamic carnivals is the Carnevale Coratino, less known than the famous Carnevale di Putignano. Another interesting profane tradition is "Federicus - Festa Medievale" an historical reconstruction dedicated to Frederick II Emperor located in the old town of Altamura, which has really intensive flows. Poised among sacred and profane is the small town of Grumo Appula where is

the "Festival dei Tammurr" and "Madonna del Mellitto". Both are crucial moments of this community: the first is an international festival dedicated to tambourine at its 33th edition, the second is an ancient religious tradition in the forest close to the town where the Byzantine icon of Madonna del Melitto is preserved. Among religious traditions, the "Processione degli Otto Santi" at the sunrise in Ruvo di Puglia is really suggestive.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Carnevale Coratino (Coratino Carnival)	www.prolococorato.it
Processione degli Ottosanti - Ruvo di Puglia (Ottosanti Procession - Ruvo di Puglia)	www.settimanasantainpuglia.it
Federicus - Altamura	www.federicus.it
Festival dei Tammurr & Madonna del Mellitto - Grumo Appula	www.galnuovofjordolivi.it

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

Putignano is quite out of this pilot area, but the Carnevale di Putignano has to be mentioned for its 626 editions and incredible artistic level of papier-mâché floats. As we know, Carnevale dies on the day of Fat Tuesday, thus his wife Quarantana is heartbroken among the old town streets. This is a tradition of Martina Franca, where these old lady puppets are among the streets for remembering the quarantine restrictions.

In San Marzano there has been a profane-sacred rite since 1866, the "Falò di San

Giuseppe": a community fest based on fire. There are several and even more peculiar fire-fests of this kind in Puglia, such as that in Faeto, in the north of the region. For this reason, the Puglia Region has established the regional network of fires, and generally protected the system of existing sheep tracks, on which, even today, it is rarely possible to run into herds of Podolica cows.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Carnevale di Putignano (Carnival of Putignano)	www.carnealediputignano.it
Falò di San Giuseppe - San Marzano (Bonfires of San Giuseppe - San Marzano)	www.fondazioneterradotranto.it

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

In the previous paragraph on festivals, we mentioned the Notte della taranta, whose origin goes back to the '60s and is considered among the most ancestral rites in Europe by the anthropologists' community. Nowadays, many religious traditions are strongly still living. First, we find the patronal feast of Castro dedicated to Maria SS Annunziata. This feast is

unforgettable for the sea procession, fireworks, the big red moon and the fine art of Luminarie, which are light structures. Going south is Diso with the patronal feast for Santi Apostoli Filippo e Giacomo and then is the patronal feast of Santa Maria di Leuca, a 3-days event dedicated to Santa Maria.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Festa della Maria SS Annunziata - Castro (Feast of Maria SS Annunziata)	www.fondazioneterradotranto.it
Festa dei Santi Apostoli Filippo e Giacomo - Diso (Feast of Santi Apostoli Filippo e Giacomo - Diso)	www.fondazioneterradotranto.it
Festa Patronale di Santa Maria - Santa Maria di Leuca (Patronal Feast of Santa Maria - Santa Maria di Leuca)	www.prolocoleuca.it



ph. Vincenzo Pioggia

For a long time craft art has not been considered at the same level of other forms of art. It has been considered a minor art. In recent years, many cultural operators and institutions worked hard to divulge the importance of craft tradition and the experiential value dealing with crafts. Thus, for those who are fascinated to experience a deep contact with apulian culture and people, they can participate at many workshops with crafts, such as: making orecchiette and cooking the famous “orecchiette e cime di rapa”, making mozzarella in a farm fully immersed in the nature, learn how to make a cesta, or still prepare bread and focaccia.

To mention among the artistic craftsmanship, there is the ancient tradition of ceramics. Grottaglie, a town about 20 km from Taranto, stands out for its craftsmanship that has given it the name of “City of Ceramics”. Furthermore, important artcraft traditions are: the textile and embroidery traditions - spread from Gargano to Salento-, olive wood craft, papier-mache which is the main technique of Carnival sculptures (s.a. Putignano and Massafra) or still leccese stones sculpture.

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Gargano peninsula is a great basin of artcraft traditions. Among the most active we mention the ancient textile tradition in Vico del Gargano. It is a female tradition,

handed down from mother to daughter, who still keep alive the handcrafted looms and the ancient embroidery techniques with silk, wool, linen and gold.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Textile tradition in Vico del Gargano	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Murgia - National Park of Alta Murgia

Ferula is an iconic plant of the National Park of Alta Murgia and the whole Mediterranean basin. Shepherds and craftsmen used the dried frustum for producing daily and working utensils,

thanks to the strength and light features of this plant. There are also important art craft traditions in the ceramic, wood and food sectors. The latter is deep-dived into the Culinary Experience category.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Artcraft with ferula	www.parcoaltamurgia.gov.it

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

This land preserves important aircraft traditions, which have roots into the breeding and transhumance, as well as agriculture, ceramics and papier mache. Here we focus on two prestigious arts. The first is the Ceramics of Grottaglie, which had a key role thanks to the red argil

caves in this land; today it is a dedicated Museum in Grottaglie where you can walk its history and admire the artistic masterpieces of this art. The second is the papier mache tradition in Massafra, which is the main technique for building the carnival floats.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Ceramica di Grottaglie (Ceramic of Grottaglie)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Cartapesta di Massafra (Papier-Mache of Massafra)	www.comunedimassafra.it

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

The Oasis belong to the municipality of Carovigno which has an ancient and consolidated tradition of textile art craft.

Textile looms from the XVII century are still active, for producing handcrafted bags, dresses, tablecloths or carpets.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Handcrafted Textile of Carovigno	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

The Salento peninsula preserves an important handicraft tradition for textile production, wood cabinet-makers, or pastry to make some examples. Here we will focus on the stone sculpture tradition

with Pietra Leccese. A local limestone that has been used over the centuries and reached its climax with the Leccese Baroque.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Pietra Leccese	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/

2.1.3. Adventure Activities

Touristic academic and marketing literature and common knowledge associate adventure tourism mainly to hard adventures and extreme experience. For sure it is also that, but we tried to go deeper in the adventure concept and define the concept of adventure, which could better fit with the Apulian experience.

We start from the etymology of adventure, which comes from latin and means “what is coming”. Actually, we never know what is coming, but in everyday life we really love to think the opposite: we are good to know what is going to happen and to plan it. Here comes our first consideration, when you are in an adventure experience, you are in the mind openness to really welcome your adventure, that is what is coming. So, the first point for Puglia is to focus on the things which facilitate this mind openness to life. We can summarize them in the experienceable living cultural heritage of the region.

The territory soul is the second milestone we consider for defining adventure experience in Puglia. Puglia territory is mainly horizontal from a geomorphological and perception point of view. Therefore you can feel Puglia soul, made by low life-ritmo and a strong nature-culture relation.

In this chapter we summarize adventure experiences you can do in the Puglia region, keeping both perspectives: on one hand the academic one, on the other the one we defined above.

Through this chapter, the main adventure activities categories will be presented first on a regional level, then focusing on each pilot area for inventorying the key actractivities involved.

ATTRACTION MAP FOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

with Pilot Areas Top Attractions

Legend :





HIKING AND TREKKING



ph. Vincenzo Pioggia

On the one hand, Apulia has been the natural bridge among the eastern and western sides of the Mediterranean basin over centuries, in fact here there are some of the most ancient Mediterranean routes. On the other hand, the Apulia region aims to promote slow tourism, with walking routes becoming a milestone. Walking routes in Puglia extend for over 2,300 Km through the following routes: Via Traiana, Via Micaelica and Via Litoranea as part of via Francigena, Via Salentina, Cammino Materano, Via Leucadense, Via Appia, Cammino dei fari and Via delle Fiabe. In this chapter we are going to present the main routes for each pilot area, which are all summarized in the map in the next page. Anyhow, rural routes cover the

region as a blood network in a human body. Therefore, our suggestion for hiking and trekking lovers is to get in contact with local guides and experts, who can for sure help you for adventuring in unforgettable places. Further, all the roots have Stazioni di Posta, which were places for restoring mind, body and livestock. Over the centuries, these places increased their importance becoming Masserie⁵, where today it is possible to take a break, relax and enjoy the place. The hiking and trekking difficulty level is really low in the whole region, anyhow there are some more difficult for pure adventure lovers. (<https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/2018/pdf/Guida-cammini-web%2028-01-ok.pdf>)

5. Masserie are typical rock-made countryside constructions. Today, we would call them circular economy centers, with agriculture and livestock production, transformation and trading.



map of Cammini of Puglia region

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

In this pilot area are two derivatives of via Francigena. Both start and arrive from a key initiatic place in the region: Monte Sant'Angelo. The first takes its name from the small town in the Gargano peninsula, it is via Micaelica. This route touches key religious and cultural centers such as: San Giovanni Rotondo - one of the most intensive place of pilgrimage dedicate to Padre Pio, San Marco in Lamis - with its fire tradition of Fracchie, among the most ancient and spectacular of the region,

Lucera - the full of story town with the Roman amphitheater and muslim traces during Federichan age, Castelluccio Valmaggiore - surrounded by nature, and Troia - with its wonderful Romanesque chatedral. In Troia via Francigena-Micaelica meet the principal via Francigena-Traiana starting in Rome. The second route is via Francigena-Litoranea, it also starts in Monte Sant'Angelo and also reconnects via Francigena-Traiana in Bari. This route follows the north Adriatic

coast, touching the colorful Saline of Margherita di Savoia, Barletta and Canne della Battaglia archeological site, the monumental ship-cathedral of San

Nicola in Trani and the gracious old-towns of Giovinazzo and Molfetta. The Umbra forest is crossed by 14 paths restored by the Forestry Corps of the State.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Via Micaelica - Francigena	www.viefrancigenedelsud.it
Via Litoranea - Francigena	www.viefrancigenedelsud.it
Umbra forest	www.parks.it

Murgia - National Park of Alta Murgia

Three main routes cross the National Park of Alta Murgia. They are: the via Francigena-Traiana, the Cammino Materano and via Appia. The first starts in Rome and arrives in Puglia in the town Troia, where the via Francigena- Micaelica ends. Then, it crosses the Tavoliere delle Puglie through the towns of Ortona - with its Roman ruins, Canosa - with its archeological sites, Ruvo di Puglia, Bitonto and then Bari. Matera is very close to the border of the Park, in fact Cammino Materano crosses this area on two sides:

one from north to west, the second from east to south.

Finally, is via Appia, perhaps the most important route in the ancient world. This route crosses Alta Murgia on the south border, touching Gravina di Puglia and the countryside of Altamura toward Laterza.

The park has an important network of slow mobility described in the Guided Itineraries downloadable from the website

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Via Traiana - Francigena	www.viefrancigenedelsud.it
Cammino Materano	www.camminomaterano.it
Via Appia	www.viefrancigenedelsud.it
Guides itineraries	www.parcoaltamurgia.gov.it

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The Cammino Materano and via Appia continue their path from Alta Murgia into the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto. The first passes through Ginosa, Mottola and Martina Franca, then it continues into Valle d'Itria arriving in Brindisi where it meets via Traiana and via Appia.

While, via Appia arrives in this area from the north-west, passing Massafra, Taranto, Grottaglie and then arriving in Brindisi.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Via Appia	www.viefrancigenedelsud.it
Cammino Materano	www.camminomaterano.it

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

Torre Guaceto is few Km north of Brindisi, on the last part of via Traiana, connecting Bari and Brindisi. A place of fresh water, Guaceto is a pleasant transition destination on the various paths that leave from northern Europe to reach Finibus Terrae via Brindisi, from the Appia-Traiana road, to the Francigena road to the Matera camino.

The paths that cross the centuries-old olive groves and agricultural fields run

parallel to the coast or intertwine with the sea, and can be walked independently or accompanied by a park guide. For those who do not want to take a long walk but want to spend a few hours immersed in unspoiled nature, there are several paths that lend themselves to coastal or agricultural trekking activities, suitable for everyone with no differences in height or particular difficulties.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Via Traiana - Francigena	www.viefrancigenedelsud.it

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

The Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase covers the main part of Cammino dei Fari. This route connects the main lighthouses and

fort towers of the Adriatic east coast of Puglia region. Many itineraries cross the park and they are identified in the website

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Itineraries in the park	www.parcootrantoleuca.it



CYCLING & MOUNTAIN BIKE



ph. Helmut Berta

Try to figure out moving from Foresta Umbra to Saline di Margherita, from Castel del Monte to Polignano crossing Murgia, from Ostuni to Taranto and Salento. Figure out to do it following your own ritmo, enjoying places and people. It is cycling in Puglia.

Today Puglia region accounts six official cycling routes: Ciclovía Adriatica, Ciclovía dell'Acquedotto Pugliese, Ciclovía

Romea-Francigena, Ciclovía dell'Alta Murgia, Ciclovía dei Borboni (connecting Bari and Naples), Ciclovía dell'Appennino (one of the longest in Italy)

Looking beyond official roots, the Puglia region has a very dense network of cyclable routes accounting more than 170 itineraries, thanks to which it is possible to discover incredible place

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Puglia cycle tours	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Ciclovía Adriatica	www.bicitalia.org
Ciclovía dell'Acquedotto Pugliese	www.bicitalia.org
Ciclovía Romea-Francigena	www.bikeitalia.it
Ciclovía dell'Alta Murgia	www.ciclovie.parcoaltamurgia.it
Ciclovía dei Borboni	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Route of the three UNESCO sites	www.bikebasilicata.it
Itineraries Gargano Bike	www.parcogargano.it
Itineraries Alta Murgia Bike	www.ciclovie.parcoaltamurgia.it
Itineraries Terre delle Gravine Bike	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Itineraries Otranto -Leuca Bike	www.parcootrantoleuca.it



ph. Leonardo d'Angelo

Apulian biodiversity makes this land a paradise for birdwatching. It is possible to watch, ear and study more than 500 species all along the Region, from the

Varano and Lesina to Saline di Margherita di Savoia, from Torre Canne to Le Cesine and Parco del Ruaccio in Salento.

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

The main interesting area for birdwatching in this pilot area is in the north where are the two biggest wet areas in the south of Italy. They are: Lago di Lesina and Laguna di Varano. Both are wet zones with a wide range of birds in these uncontaminated areas. Due to their position, this is a very important migration route for many species such as: ducks, coots, mallards, cormorants, pochards, great grebes. Therefore it is possible to admire the elegant migration dance of

these wonderful animals. Further, here it is possible to admire birds both from the land and the water, with kayak, canoa and Sandalo, the autoctone ship for the lake.

Close to this pilot area and part of the Gargano National Park is the Oasi di Lago Salso, an important wet area of the region and also an important anthropic settlement since ancient ages till middle ages, as known from recent important site researches.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Lago di Lesina (Lesina Lake)	www.welikegargano.it
Laguna di Varano (Varano Laguna)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/
Oasi Lago Salso (Salso Lake Oasis)	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Murgia - National Park of Alta Murgia

"De arte venandi cum avibus" is a treatise on the art of hunting, written by Frederick II Emperor. Nowadays, it is still a reference point in this field. This collection of books analyzes how to hunt with rapacious, mainly falcons. Due to his love for this land and the high presence of rapacious in this land, some historians hypothesize

Frederick II wrote this book from his experience in this land. Therefore, this is a perfect land for rapacious-lovers, being Alta Murgia one of the few nesting colonies for rapacious species such as: Grillai, Lanario, Capovaccaio, Averle, Occhione, Calandra, Calandrella, Monachella and Zigolo capinero.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
National Park of Alta Murgia	www.parcoaltamurgia.gov.it

Taranto & Gravine – Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The geomorphological continuity between the Alta Murgia Park and the Regional Natural Park Terra delle Gravine, allows to have many similar species of birds of prey in these areas. However, the particular conformation of the Gravine with numerous holes along the rocky walls, has allowed very rare endangered species that find refuge in these holes

in the rock. Among these species there are: the Lesser Kestrel, a small hawk 27–33 cm long, the Lanner, with a black stripe between the beak and the eyes, the Egyptian Vulture, the smallest European vulture revered by the Egyptians, the Blue Jay with its wonderful blue, the Grey Shrike and the Red-backed Shrike.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto	http://www.oasilipugravinadilaterza.it/data/brochure_Avifauna.pdf

Torre Guaceto – WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

The Oasis area has connection with the sea, a wet zone and the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto. Due to

that it is possible to watch wonderful bird species belonging to different habitats. Zigolo capinero.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Torre Guaceto	www.riservaditorreguaceto.it

Otranto–Leuca – Natural Regional Park of Otranto–Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

The Natural Regional Park of Otranto–Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase has no relevant wet zones hosting important bird species. Anyhow, in the last few years the park organization has been working hard for mapping bird species in Park, as well as to spread this knowledge.

In Salento peninsula are several very important areas for bird watching both on Adriatic coast (Natural Reserve Le Cesine and Natural Reserve of Rauccio) and Ionic coast (Torre Colimena, Salina dei Monaci and the Sentiero dei Fenicotteri).



HORSEBACK-RIDING



ph. Vincenzo Pioggia

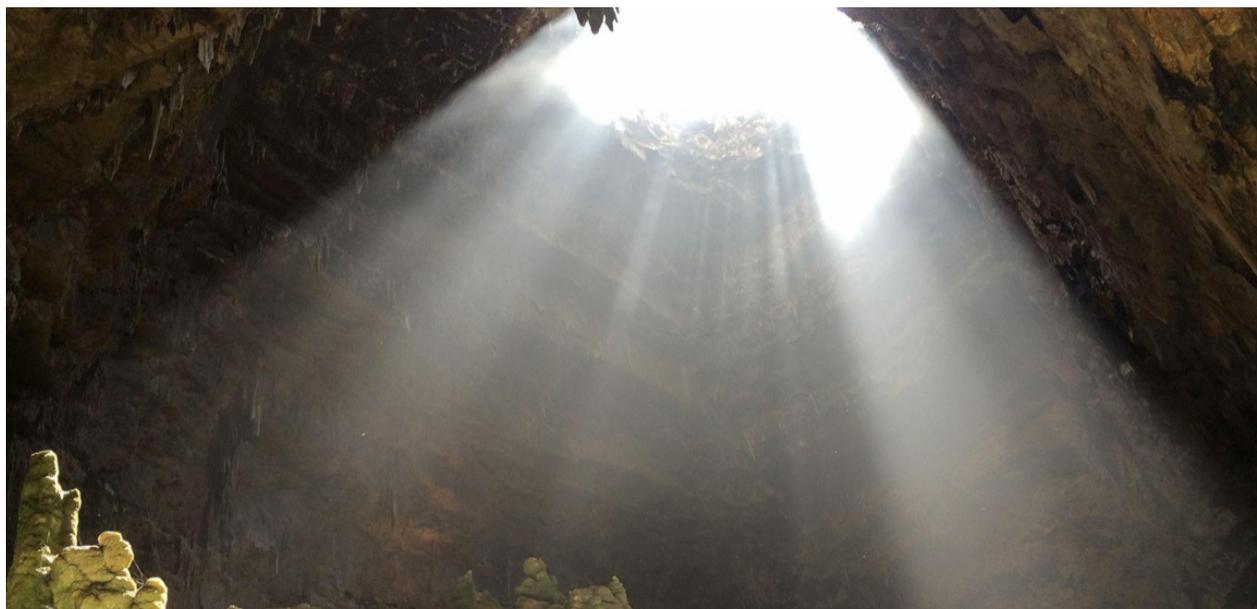
Puglia has a long and strong connection with horses. As for the “Murgese Horse”, also known as “bright black”, who came from Murgia area. Thus, for those who love to be fully in contact with nature, you can ride across the whole region from Isole Tremiti until Santa Maria di Leuca, in the deep south. For nature and horse

lovers Foresta Umbra, Valle d’Itria and Otranto are a must as horseback-riding experience.

It is possible to make this experience in all five pilot areas, contacting local service providers.



CAVING



ph. Mariagrazia Proietto

Puglia is a carsic land. This has been among critical factors for developing first human settlements, as for evidence by several neolithic sites in the upper part of the region and the famous “Uomo di Altamura” +150,000 years dated. In the caves are the first Christian traces, and they welcomed hermits along the past centuries. Caving in Puglia means getting in touch with history, spirituality and art, but also natural activity, for sure. It is the case of the most famous Apulian caves “Le Grotte di Castellana”, with its Speleological Museum “Franco Anelli”. It is 3 Km long, one of which is accessible for tourists, and serves also scenography for artistic shows and as unusual classrooms for workshops.

Further coastal caves are mainly on the Adriatic coast of the region, offering unforgettable scenarios for those who visit or better snorkel them.

The region hosts among the most important prehistoric caves, the most important are: Grotta Pagliacci sited in Rignano Garganico with more than 45.000 findings of Paleolithic age and Grotta dei Cervi sited in Salento with some of the most famous graffiti of Neolithic ages.

6. For more information about rupestrian civilization in Puglia the inter-regional project Stone ways a journey through the centuries (http://rupestre.viaggiareinpuglia.it/toscana/index.php?page=det_apr_02_puglia_preistorica)

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Gargano has both maritime and terrestrial caves, which accounts for more than 4,000 in this land. The first are accessible only by sea and they are located mainly among Vieste and Mattinata, for a total of 18 caves. Five of them are located in this pilota area, in the south of Vieste: Grotta dei Domino Island, in the Isole Tremiti district. Here are five beautiful natural caves, among the most suggestive places to take a picture if you come here.

Further, there are some caves in the inner part of Gargano peninsula, most relevant located a little bit out of this pilot area,

among San Nicandro and San Marco in Lamis. The most important carsic formation is Dolina Pozzatina, the second in Europe for extension.

In the border of the Gargano National Park towards Sansevero e Lucera is Grotta Pagliacci, one of the most important Paleolithic caves of the Country with more than 45.000 findings, even though in the 2006 ingent damages from vandalism had been detected. The cave is not accessible, studies and guidelines had been written for preserving the remaining part.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Vieste – Lido di Portonovo – Pugnochiuso	www.gamberettarossa.it
San Nicandro – San Marco in Lamis	www.gargano.it
Grotte di San Domino	www.parcogargano.it

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

The karst territory of the Alta Murgia National Park offers a rich variety of caves that can be visited in speleological routes. In this area there are caves of abandoned bauxite, testifying to the history of these lands of millions of years ago. Holes, pits (the Bardanica that goes from Daunia to Taranto) and quarries (the Cavone),

impressive phenomena of karst origin that reach more than 90 meters deep. It is possible to make real speleological paths inside numerous craters, caves (Grotta I and II del Pulo di Altamura) and quarries, depending on the level of experience and difficulty.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Lame di Laterza	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Grotta Croce	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it
Grotta del Cavone	www.trekking-puglia.blogspot.com
Pulo di Altamura	www.puglia.com

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The canyons of Puglia are masterpieces where ecology, geology, archaeology and history are mixed in a masterful unicum. In these places you can admire gorges that reach up to 200 m, worked by the thousand-year-old action of twenty disappeared streams that went to the sea.

You can discover ancient karst furrows that creep for hundreds of meters, overhangs, valleys, caves, primeval Mediterranean forest, wildlife.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Caving in the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto/Laterza	www.cealaterza.it

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

The karstic nature of the apulian territory makes it possible to find several quarry formations that over the centuries have been used as temporary shelters, stables, for the creation of settlements and rock crypts.

In the immediate vicinity of the area there are two large hypogeal complexes, which testify to its use from the 9th to the 12th century.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
The Caves of San Biagio - Ostuni	www.comune.sanvitodeinormanni.br.it
The Caves of Santa Maria di Belvedere - Carovigno	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

A boat trip to discover the sea caves of the coast from Otranto to Leuca not to be missed. You can visit in different points of the coast, caves accessible only by sea: Romanelli, Azzurra, Palombara, Sulfurea and Striare and the Zinzulusa Cave, also accessible by land, famous for the "Zinzuli", stalactite concretions similar to rags, which decorate the vault in the access area.

The Zinzulusa, one of the most famous and important manifestations of Italian

coastal karst, overlooks the Ionian Sea, along the coast between Castro Marina and Santa Cesarea Terme. The Romanelli cave is one of the natural coastal caves of Salento, in Castro, while Santa Cesarea Terme is renowned for the waters of the thermal baths (sulphurous-salty-bromine-iodic) which is directly enriched by the spring veins that extend along a long stretch of coast from Porto Badisco to Castro.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Grotta Zinzulusa and Grotta Romanelli/ Castro	www.viaggiareinpuglia.it



CLIMBING



ph. AcidiColori

Puglia may be not so known for its mountains and climbing cliffs, due to its major flat lands and horizontal landscape. But it is possible to practice climbing on incredible cliffs, with various routes and climbing severity. From the coast to the hinterland: climbing is a sporting activity that can be practiced in the gorges of the Gravine, as well as Salento, in the caves

of Santa Maria di Leuca, and along the high cliffs that surround the coast and overlook the sea. Most important cliffs are in Gargano (with Olimpo of Manfredonia, Ripe Rosse and Rignano Garganico), Alta Murgia (Pulo di Altamura), Gravine Ioniche (Statte and Laterza) and Salento (Ponte Ciolo).

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

For lovers of climbing, the Gargano offers a wide variety of routes. The cliffs of the Gargano seem to descend slowly and gently into the sea and are characterized by a thick Mediterranean vegetation that gives these silent giants a very impressive appearance. The Gargano coast that

develops from Vieste to Mattinata is, in fact, a real treasure to be guarded and protected. In this stretch of coast are concentrated the wonderful and high active and inactive cliffs (near or on the sea) of the Gargano: the Palombaio, Mattinata and Ripe Rosse.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Climbing in the National Park of Gargano (Manfredonia, Mattinata, Rignano Garganico)	www.parcogargano.it

Murgia - National Park Of Alta Murgia

The Pulo di Atamura was the first rock climbing gym in the whole South of Italy, its walls have seen speleologists and climbers perform evolutions on the wide vaults of the Murgia caves. The Pulo di Altamura is one of the few places in the

world where you can practice climbing in reverse: first you go down and then up, since it is a giant impluvium in the ground. Other interesting sites are in Murgia Materana, especially in Jazzo Gattini.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Pulo di Altamura & Murgia Materana	www.falesia.it

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

In the Regional Natural Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto and in the Oasis of Laterza is undoubtedly the Free Climbing, or free climbing one of the most special experiences. It is also possible to practice its less spectacular but certainly more technical variant, Bouldering.

In order to protect the surrounding environment and to offer the visitor a welcoming habitat, more and more frequently local climbers carry out

autonomous (and silent) cleaning campaigns not only of the sections adjacent to the climbing sites, but of entire stretches of ravine. The cliffs of Statte, for example, thanks to their presence in specific publications, have also become a top destination for French, German, Austrian and Swiss climbers since the 80's.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Climbing in the Gravine Park & Laterza Oasis	www.falesia.it www.falesia.it

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

There are no places for practicing climbing in this pilot area.

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

On a limestone rock with wonderful features reveals the Ponte Ciolo, a cave not very accessible but scenically suggestive, with the presence of stalactites and

stalagmites, climbing overlooking the sea. Another easier and more accessible destination along the north ridge of the Ciolo Canal is the Grotta delle Prazziche.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Climbing in eastern Salento: Ponte Ciolo, Santa Maria di Leuca.	www.planetmountain.com



SCUBA DIVING & SNORKELING



ph. Vanda Biffani

For those who love underwater experience Apulia is the Toyland. The 780km of coasts offer a wide range of seabeds, sea flora & fauna, as well as caves and relictis. This makes Puglia a great place for scuba diving, snorkeling and apneists. Among the must-see sites are: protected sea site of Isole Tremiti in the north, Polignano a Mare, Brindisi, Torre Canne and the

protected sea site of Torre Guaceto in the middle of the region on the Adriatic side, San Pietro in Bevagna and Torre Ovo with its unique stone forest are in the Jonic Gulf, finally the most generous area is Salento with: Otranto, the protected sea site of Porto Cesareo, Porto Badisco where Enea approached and Nardò.

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

The Tremiti Islands have at least fifty points of interest for diving and snorkeling. The depths of the archipelago are populated by an incredible variety of marine species and have deep areas for diving lovers and shallow and sandy areas ideal for snorkelers.

For those who are underwater archeology lovers, here they will find various sites of 2000 years age range. The most prestigious are Il carico delle tre streghe and the Relitto Lombardo, deeper info are in the Underwater Cultural Heritage category and in the relative analysis and evaluation

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Tremiti Islands	www.paradisiparalleli.com

Murgia - National Park of Alta Murgia

This pilot area has no coastal areas.

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

This pilot area has no coastal areas.

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

The emotion of the first breath underwater, the first step towards the knowledge of sea creatures, the approach to the incredible underwater ecosystem. With mask and fins, accessible even to the less experienced to observe the seabed of the Marine Protected Area of Torre Guaceto. The experience of contact with the underwater world is amplified by the sociable and not at all distrustful

character of the inhabitants of the sea: years of fishing stoppages and limitation of human activities in the marine protected area have allowed fish not only to grow and proliferate, but above all to regain possession of their habitat so that they are not at all disturbed by snorkeling activities, which do not impact on the marine environment.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Marine Reserve	www.riservaditorreguaceto.it

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

The Sea is the greatest wealth of Salento, in addition to its stunning setting of colors and shades, it offers many opportunities to practice sports, both professional and amateur.

In Salento you can practice any kind of water sports, from the surface to depths of crystal waters. Winds, to which the peninsula is perpetually exposed, allow you to practice kitesurf and snorkeling.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Scuba diving & Snorkeling in eastern Salento	



TABLE SEA SPORT



ph. Vanda Biffani

Even though there is not a great tradition of table sea sports, in recent years the interest is growing strongly, as well as the infrastructures for practicing them. Table sea sports include: surf, water surf, windsurf and kite surf.

As for other sea activities, it is possible to practice table sea sports all along the

region, with some peculiarities, as for windsurf in the wide beaches in the north of the Region and on the south Adriatic side, or surf in Santa Maria di Leuca and Marina di Lizzano.

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

The Gargano coast is an excellent area for those looking for waves to ride. The Gargano area is more exposed to the winds, with a sandy seabed, creating ideal conditions for experts but also for those

who have yet to learn. The most famous site is Spiaggia del Pizzomunno in Vieste, even though more and more table sea sport lovers are running also other sites as for long beaches of Lesina and Varano.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Vieste (Santa Maria di Merino, spiaggia del Pizzomunno)	www.discovergargano.com

Murgia – National Park of Alta Murgia

This pilot area has no coastal areas.

Taranto & Gravine – Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

This pilot area has no coastal areas.

Torre Guaceto – WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

In front of the sandy and deep bay of Torre Guaceto, there are several islets that protect it from the strongest winds, making it stable and optimal conditions for water sports, surfing, kite and windsurfing. The Centre for marine environmental education and water

sports sailing, located in Punta Penna Grossa, is the starting point to discover the marine protected area of Torre Guaceto and water sports, especially the oldest form of navigation, sailing, which allows you to experience the sea within a beautiful natural setting.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Apani	www.centrovelicotorreguaceto.it

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

The Salento has a history related to surfing, in fact, was born in 1970 the practice of this sport in all the coasts both on the Ionian and Adriatic sides. Until a few years ago, we only talked about the classic board with sail, for the conformation of the

coasts and the presence of the mountains not too far away the wind currents and perfect waves have given the supremacy of beaches for windsurfing to those of Salento. Currently it is easier to see the boards with kitesurfing.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Porto Badisco, Cesarea Terme	www.nelsalento.com



CETACEANS WATCHING



ph. Pugliapromozione

Many scientific research shows some analogies among humans and cetaceans, as mammiferes and the complex communication for instance. Maybe this is the reason why it is so

emotionally intense to get in touch with them, as you can do watching dolphins at sunset on the Gulf of Taranto in the Jonic sea, drinking an aperitivo with your loved ones.

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

Since 2009, the Jonian Dolphin Conservation has carried out scientific research and protection of cetaceans in the Gulf of Taranto - Northern Ionian Sea.

The tourist activity carried out by JDC is an integral part of a broader project of citizen science, that is, participation of the public in scientific research while promoting environmental education activities aimed at protecting the marine and coastal Ionian heritage.

JDC Association has been able to combine scientific research and tourist activity giving national and international tourists a unique experience to discover dolphins - the symbol of the city of Taranto - in their natural environment, thanks to the expert guidance of researchers specialized in the study of cetaceans in the Gulf of Taranto.



ph. Pugliapromozione

Two basic survival rules if you want to come to Puglia. First, before coming to Puglia be aware you will leave this land with 3 Kg weight more on average. Second, leave also some empty space in your baggage, for sure you would take some local food at home with you. The incredible culinary heritage of Puglia covers the whole region from Gargano to Salento, as well as the olive oil production which covers the whole region with +80 varieties making the apulian region first in Italian olive biodiversity. This heritage takes origin from the wide biodiversity, which involves agricultural, ittic and farming production. Just to cite some must-foods: caciocavallo podolico from

Gargano, anguilla soup of Lesina lake, Laterza and Altamura bread, mozzarelle and burrate, panzerotti, cappelletti e cime di rape, focaccia barese, rice-potato and mussels, capocollo of Martina Franca, pomodori fiaschetto of Torre Guaceto, frisa and primitivo salentino. The list could be longer and for more deeper information it's available apulian gastronomic itineraries edit by Pugliapromozione

It is very interesting to know even more about Puglia through its typical productions, which narrate in detail the traditions and customs of the community and the generations that have followed each other over the centuries.

Most of them are linked to the rural tradition, made of simple and effective daily gestures and related to seasonal raw materials, prepared to be consumed during work in the fields.

A path that has evolved over time, through a continuous improvement of production techniques, the certification of raw materials and the constant search for quality, as well as in the mastery of culinary art with recipes increasingly sought after in step with the times and appreciated throughout the world.

The typical products of Puglia are 150, including protecting designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI)⁸ and traditional food products linked to gastronomy or a very limited geographical area.

[The apulian bread and bakery products](#) are famous all over the world. One of the typical products of Puglia that immediately comes to mind is the bread of Altamura, durum wheat, with thick crust and thick crumb. It is also certified PGI because of its historical importance. The most famous apulian traditions products include focacce, friselle, taralli, hand made pasta, orecchiette.

[Everyone knows the apulian burrata, cacioricotta and caciocavallo:](#) protagonists of traditional dishes that delight the palate, with a unique and unmistakable taste.

Here is a list of typical dairy products PDO and PGI from Puglia:

- Caciocavallo Silano PDO
- Burrata di Andria PGI
- Ricotta di Bufala Campana PDO
- Canestrato Pugliese PDO
- Mozzarella di Bufala Campana PDO

[There are also numerous vegetables](#) among fruits, vegetables and legumes recognized as PGI, confirming the unique richness of this region. Among citrus fruits, lentils, grapes and olives, almonds, here are the products PDO and PGI

- La Bella della Daunia PDO
- Lenticchia di Altamura PGI
- Clementine del Golfo di Taranto PGI
- Uva di Puglia PGI
- Carciofo Brindisino PGI

Extra virgin olive oil is an Apulian excellence now part of the Italian cultural heritage: it is produced from the north to the whole South and is a fundamental ingredient of the Mediterranean Diet.

7. https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/allegati/Homepage/guida_enogastronomia_ita_1580986778870.pdf

8. <https://rqr.iamb.it/prodotti-dop-igp.php>

Caloric but rich in vitamins, nutrients and good fats, extra virgin olive oil is an ancient food and in Puglia there are several variations, here are those PDO:

- “Dauno” Extra Virgin Olive Oil PDO
- “Collina di Brindisi” Extra Virgin Olive Oil PDO
- “Terre di Bari” Extra Virgin Olive Oil PDO
- “Terre d’Otranto” Extra Virgin Olive Oil PDO
- “Terre Tarentine” Extra Virgin Olive Oil PDO

The cultivation of vines in Puglia dates back to the Phoenician era, but it was the Romans who were the first to appreciate apulian wines, so much so that the poet Orazio compared them to Falerno, considered at that time the best among the wines in circulation.

In the following centuries other testimonies mark the historical evolution of fine apulian wines when the bitter enemy of the vine, phylloxera, determined the almost total extermination of vineyards.

The production disaster was the occasion for qualitative changes to the production system aiming at quality with the introduction of the Negroamaro and Primitivo vines. The success was so great and widespread that even today these vines represent apulian enology in the world.

Here are some statistical data of apulian wine Production⁹:

- Area under vines: 86,711 hectares of which mountain 1%, hill 30%, plain:69%
- Total production Wine: 4,965,000 hectolitres of which PDO wines 4.9%, PGI wines 22.4%
- Production of red and rose wines: 65%, white wines 35%.
- Puglia wine denominations: DOCG wines: 4, DOC wines: 29, IGT wines: 6

The importance of oil and wine for the apulian culture has contributed to the development, even in the heel region of Italy, of tourist-cultural itineraries dedicated to the products of excellence mentioned above, such as the Oil Roads (Strada dell’Olio) and the Wine Roads (Strada del Vino)¹⁰, real cultural routes that characterize the tourist offer of the territory, with an international character.

To the recreational paths in the oil museums and educational farms designed for children are generally associated with paths that combine the cultural-landscape aspect of the production areas PDO, almost always of considerable archaeological, historical and artistic interest, to the food and wine, with indication of restaurants, farmhouses, refreshment points, festivals and fairs where you can taste the typical foods.

9. <http://www.assovini.it/italia/puglia/item/91-i-vini-della-regione-puglia>

10. <https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/dir/PE5/93/it/Città-dell-olio-e-del-vino>

In Puglia there are 5 Oil Roads, as many as the geographical types of reference for the PDO brand, and therefore, from north to south:

- Strada dell'Olio Dauno
- Strada dell'Olio Terra di Bari
- Strada dell'Olio Collina di Brindisi
- Strada dell'Olio Terre Tarentine
- Strada dell'Olio Terra d'Otranto

The same goes for the Wine Roads , a system of tourism offers that wind along a path, where the places of wine can be visited, such as vineyards, companies, wineries, but also related business activities, such as restaurants, hotels, farms, wine bars.

In Puglia there are 9 roads,

- Strada del Vino Doc Daunia: a route that winds between San Severo, Apricena, San Paolo Civitate, Torremaggiore and Lucera.
- Strada del vino Doc "Antichi vini rossi": it starts from Barletta and continues towards Canne della Battaglia, Canosa di Puglia, Cerignola, Orta Nova, Stornara, Stornarella, Trinitapoli.
- Strada dei Vini Doc Castel Del Monte: which touches Andria, Corato, Minervino Murge, Ruvo di Puglia, Terlizzi and Trani.

- Strada del Vino Doc della Murgia Carsica: it starts from Noci and continues to Castellana Grotte, Putignano, Gioia del Colle, Acquaviva delle Fonti, Santeramo in Colle, Altamura, Gravina, Sannicandro, Rutigliano, Adelfia, Conversano, Sammichele di Bari and Casamassima.
- Strada dei vini Doc Locorotondo e Martina Franca: it is in the Itria Valley, which develops from Locorotondo and touches Martina Franca, Crispiano, Ceglie Messapica, Ostuni and Alberobello.
- Strada del Vino L'Appia dei vini Doc Brindisi-Ostuni: this place was called by the Greeks "Enotria", that is land of wine. It starts from Brindisi and winds through Mesagne, Latiano, San Vito dei Normanni, Carovigno and Ostuni.
- Strada del Vino Vigna del Sole: from here you start to descend towards Salento, with San Donaci, Novoli, Surbo, Arnesano, Lecce and Galatina.
- Strada del Vino Doc Primitivo di Manduria e Lizzano: which winds through Leporano, Pulsano and Manduria.

11. <http://www.lestradedelvinopuglia.it>

Gargano - Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

Culinary experience in Gargano peninsula spread from seafood, fresh-water food from wet areas, meat food and for sure, vegetable based food.

Among the local dishes in this pilot area are: "Pènècutte pi fògghjè" - stale bread cooked in a vegetable soup, Caciocavallo Podolico - local cheese from Podolica cows preserved in caves, "Frécùnè pi

cèmmamarèddè" - homemade pasta with spontaneous vegetables and olive oil, "Févè e chècozzè" - broad beans and pumpkin, "Suffrìttè pi 'ngiddè e ranògnè" - anguille in vegetable soup, "Ciambòttè" - local fish and vegetable soup, "fragagghjame" - raw small fishes. The list is really long, go there and experience them.

Murgia - National Park of Alta Murgia

Culinary tradition in this area is strongly vegetable-based with some meat dishes. From this area is the "Pane di Altamura", which is a durum wheat bread, one of the bases in mediterranean and apulian region. Other famous dishes are "Strascinati e cime di rape" - homemade cap shape pasta with turnip greens and

olive oil, mozzarelle and burrate - local fresh cheese, "Pecorino canestrato" - aged sheep's milk cheese, Cardoncelli mushrooms which are really delicious with capunti pasta or grilled. Fried Panzerotti and Focaccia barese are must street-food if you come to this land.

Taranto & Gravine - Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

The pilot area of the Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto has a strong culinary continuity with Alta Murgia. In fact, here is the production of pane and focaccia di Laterza, which is close to the one of Altamura but has some differences too. In

this area meat dishes are really delicious as for Capocollo di Martina Franca and pork and veal meat of Gravine. In this land, there is an autocton production of agrumes in the Taranto gulf.

Torre Guaceto - WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

Despite the small extension of this pilot area, this land was historically a fertile land named in numerous documents for its generous vegetable production. Nowadays the 77% of the oasis extension is of cultivated land, where are cultivated olive trees and the "Pomodoro fiaschetto

di Torre Guaceto", with its unmistakable taste influenced by brackish waters. The fishing management system of the Oasis is really virtuous, starting in 2005 it has shown incredible results in terms of fish population with a +400% in ten years project.

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

Despite Salento is a peninsula and it is surrounded by both Adriatic and Ionian sea, culinary tradition of this area is mainly vegetable and meat based. Anyhow, you can eat great seafood in this area too. Among traditional dishes are: "Ciceri e tria" homemade fried and boiled pasta with legumes, "Mersi fritti" fried bread with

local vegetables and legumes, "ragù di cavallo" horse meat with tomato sauce, "Turcinieddhri" grilled lamb meat with its innards, "Scapece" marinated fried fish, "Pollo cusutu 'n culu" whole chicken stuffed with fried meat and eggs and "Pasticciotto" maybe the iconic pastry dish of Salento.



AIR SPORT

Even though air sports appeared in the 70s, it is in the last decades that the sector evolved with professional players and sites where it is possible to experience extreme air sports in full safety. The most most fascinating sites are in the National Park of Gargano, The National Park of Alta Murgia and the cliffs on the Adriatic Salento coast.

In these sites it is possible to practise various air sports or activities accessible for various levels of experience, from ballooning to paragliding and gliding.



ph. Leonardo D'Angelo

The karst structure of the soil spread all along the region provides several thermal and hotspring sites all along the region. In the north of the Region close to National Park of Gargano there are the Terme di Castelnuovo della Daunia, going to south

there are the sulfuric therms of Margherita di Savoia, Terme di Torre Canne few Km south to Bari and then the famous Terme di Santa Cesarea, embedded into the rock cliff on the crystal clear waters of Salento.

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase

In this pilot area there is the most important and historical sulfuric term site, located in Santa Cesarea Terme which has a long story mixed with ancient legends. With the Turkish invasion of 1480 the termal site went pillaged and

abandoned till XX century, as the medical and scientific attention on sulfuric therms increased. The terms gave a new lymph to the town with the birth of the tourist sector. Therefore citizens decided to integrate Terme into the name of the small town.

Site/Activity Name	Information Sources
Terme di Santa Cesarea	www.termesantacesarea.it



ph. Vincenzo Pioggia

Masserie are an iconic architecture, as well as cultural and life-style symbol of the Puglia region. They are spread all along the region, covering a 500 years range and several architectural and artistic styles. Among the most important sites are Masserie fortificate, fortified architectures for defensive purpose. It is the case of Masseria Jesce, in Altamura countryside. Human traces are from IV century BC and Mari's family built the fortified building in XVI century AD, for what we would call today a circular economy enterprise. Making use of the extensive lands, several activities were in place for guaranteeing self-sustainability

of the place. Masseria Jesce is a religious and sacral site, natural carsic caves are placed on amphitheatrical hills, one among them is the Saint Michael crypt with byzantine and baroque frescos.

Masseries are also becoming an exclusive and experience-focused education projects, where local students and young visitors can have unforgettable exciting school experiences of artcraft workshops and local culture. These projects are called "Masserie didattiche" which are collected into the portal <http://www.tasteandtourinmasseria.it/>.



CRUISING AND SAILING



ph. Michele Donatelli

The best way for enjoying the fascinating apulian coasts and sea is by cruising and sailing. Over the 800 Km of coasts are several touristic ports where you can rent a boat or stop on your own. You can have a full sea experience by doing it from the other side, making it unforgettable. It will be possible to take a trip over the historic port village¹² taking a seafood aperitif at the sunset on your boat or in one of the local cuisine restaurants in the old towns. By the project [Itineraries across culture, history, traditions, seascapes and sea-troves](#)¹² Twelve itineraries are identified discovering extraordinary land and seascapes rich with history, culture,

traditions and wine and food excellence, washed by an enchanting sea and delivering unique emotions to travelers, creating an intimate atmosphere and making for a surprising slow tourism experience.

Further with cruising and sailing you can reach and enjoy the beaches and caves which are not reachable by foot or are very difficult to reach. It is a must experience in the pilot areas of Gargano, Torre Guaceto and Otranto-Leuca.

12. <https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/puglia-e-dintorni/en/42/Ti-racconto-il-mare---Borghi-Storici-Marinari-di-Puglia>



STARGAZING



ph. Nicola Abbrescia

Stargazing in Puglia is a sort of natural rite, in which every visitor takes part at least once during her trip. The structure of the anthropic centers in the region, with no big cities, make it possible to do stargazing

everywhere you are. The selected pilot areas are the best scenarios to do it in the region, due to they are parks or protected areas, with no invasive human presence.

Goodnight

2.2 Attraction evaluation

This chapter focuses on the adventure experiences in each pilot area, providing maps and evaluation cards of natural and cultural attraction and adventure activities.

Each card collects general info, a qualitative evaluation of Current level of use, Current touristic value, Potential value for ADT, finally a description of its key elements.

2.2.1 Gargano

FORESTA UMBRA, LESINA LAKE RESERVE,
VARANO RESERVE AND TREMITI ISLANDS
[PILOT AREA N.1]

ph: Leonardo d'Angelo; Vanda Biffani



The territory of Gargano has been populated by man since the Paleolithic, with an ancient history of myths, legends and religious traditions, extraordinarily rich in plant species, animals and ecosystems. The Gargano is a karst massif that stretches for about 2000 square kilometers, from sea level up to 1055 m of Monte Calvo, covered by Aleppo pine forests, beech trees and extensive beech forests of the Umbra Forest. The natural landscapes range from the marine one of the coasts to those of the lakes (Lesina and Varano) and coastal marshes, up to the island landscapes of the Tremiti Islands.

For its exceptional natural beauty and landscape resources, the Gargano, since the time of Frederick II, has been a vacation destination. The tourist industry is mainly

located along the coast, especially between Mattinata, Vieste and Peschici, here are among the most beautiful beaches in Italy. Historically, this is a land inspiring a strong spirituality as testified by Neolithic tombs, eremits, the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo and the recent devotion to Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo. In 1991 the Gargano National Park was established to encourage different types of tourism protecting the natural heritage and displacing the offer at different times of the year. Currently you can visit the National Park by hiking and trekking on horseback, make birdwatching experiences on lakes and seawatching on the coast, immerse yourself in the crystal clear sea of the Tremiti for a scuba diving experience, or try your hand at kitesurfing and windsurfing on the coast of Vieste.

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



N.1 | Tremiti Islands

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Reserve	Tremiti Islands	AP.1 Gargano Isole Tremiti
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Tremiti Islands represent the only Italian archipelago in the Adriatic Sea almost 20km away from Gargano promontory. Also known as "Insulae Diomedea", from the name of Homer's Greek hero buried here, the Tremiti represent a small corner of paradise that attracts for its clear sea, clean seabed, pleasant climate, pure air, lush vegetation, nature still wild and untouched, bays and headlands, low sandy and rocky coastline with cliffs overlooking the sea.</p> <p>The marine park of the Tremiti Islands, consisting of the 5 islands: San Domino, San Nicola, Capraia, Cretaccio and Pianosa. Since 1991, they have been part of Gargano National Park. San Domino, the largest island, is the most beautiful from the point of view of landscape and nature, covered by a forest of Aleppo pines and several fascinating sea caves. San Nicola is an open-air museum with towers, imposing fortifications, walls, churches and the abbey-fortress of Santa Maria a Mare; Capraia is uninhabited and full of plants and flowers; Cretaccio, is a natural bridge between San Domino and San Nicola; finally Pianosa is an uninhabited rocky plateau, twenty kilometers from the other island.</p> <p>Snorkeling is an activity within everyone's reach, but one that encapsulates a highly exciting experience, discovering marine wonders within flipper reach. The Tremiti Islands boast a real paradise for those who want to live this adventure. The seabed of the archipelago is populated by an incredible variety of marine species and sandy areas perfect for snorkeling.</p> <p>https://www.parcogargano.it/servizi/Menu/dinamica.aspx?idSezione=616&idArea=17732&idCat=17732&ID=17732&TipoElemento=area</p>		

N.2 | Ischitella and Carpino

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Reserve	Ischitella and Carpino	AP.1 Gargano Carpino, Ischitella
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The State Nature Reserve of Ischitella and Carpino is included in the green heart of the Gargano National Park. It occupies an area of 299 hectares, in the Province of Foggia. The reserve is made up of deciduous woods with a prevalence of holm oak and beech; thanks to the particular microclimate here you will come across lush and majestic beech trees that thrive in a sunny land and stingy with water thanks to the particular microclimate and exposure to prevailing winds that provide the necessary humidity. The fauna is represented mainly by the roe deer and wild cat, as well as several species of birds. Ischitella, a characteristic medieval village a few kilometers from the mouth of Lake Varano, stands on a hill about 300 meters above sea level.</p> <p>A few kilometers from Ischitella is Carpino, on the north coast of the Gargano, between Lake Varano and the Umbra Forest, a true jewel of architecture with the charming old town located on steep streets. Carpino hosts one of the most important folk festivals of the region, deep dived into the dedicated card in the Culture resources map.</p> <p>https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/at/31/parco/700/it/Bosco-di-Ischitella-e-Carpino-191-(FG)</p>		

N.3 | Varano Island

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Reserve	Varano Islands	AP.1 Gargano Ischitella, Carpino
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>A few kilometers away, divided by a hill (Monte d'Elio) nestled in the Gargano National Park, in the province of Foggia, the beach Isola di Varano is a strip of fine sand that extends for ten kilometers along the state reserve Isola di Varano, overlooking the sea on one side, and on the other the homonymous lake of Varano.</p> <p>Surrounded by a cordon of dunes and eucalyptus, pine and mastic trees, scattered mainly along the stretch of sandy coast, the expanse is completely free of bathing facilities and can be easily reached from the numerous paths that connect the main road to the beach. The nearby Varano Lake is the largest in southern Italy, with its perimeter of about 37 kilometers and an area of 60.5 km². The deserted landscape is dominated by the Gargano massif which to the south is the only stretch of the Adriatic coast that has been preserved, elements that allow to reconstruct what was the original vegetation cover of this land. It is fed by underwater springs and communicates with the sea through two passages called Foce Varano and Foce Capoiale. Also the fauna is rich: on its shores you can meet the gadwall, the wigeon, the little dive and, numerous, the coots. Atypical is, instead, its morphology: high coasts and deep seabed up to over 5 meters.</p> <p>https://www.parcogargano.it/servizi/Menu/dinamica.aspx?idSezione=616&idArea=17308&idCat=17840&ID=18283&TipoElemento=pagina</p>		

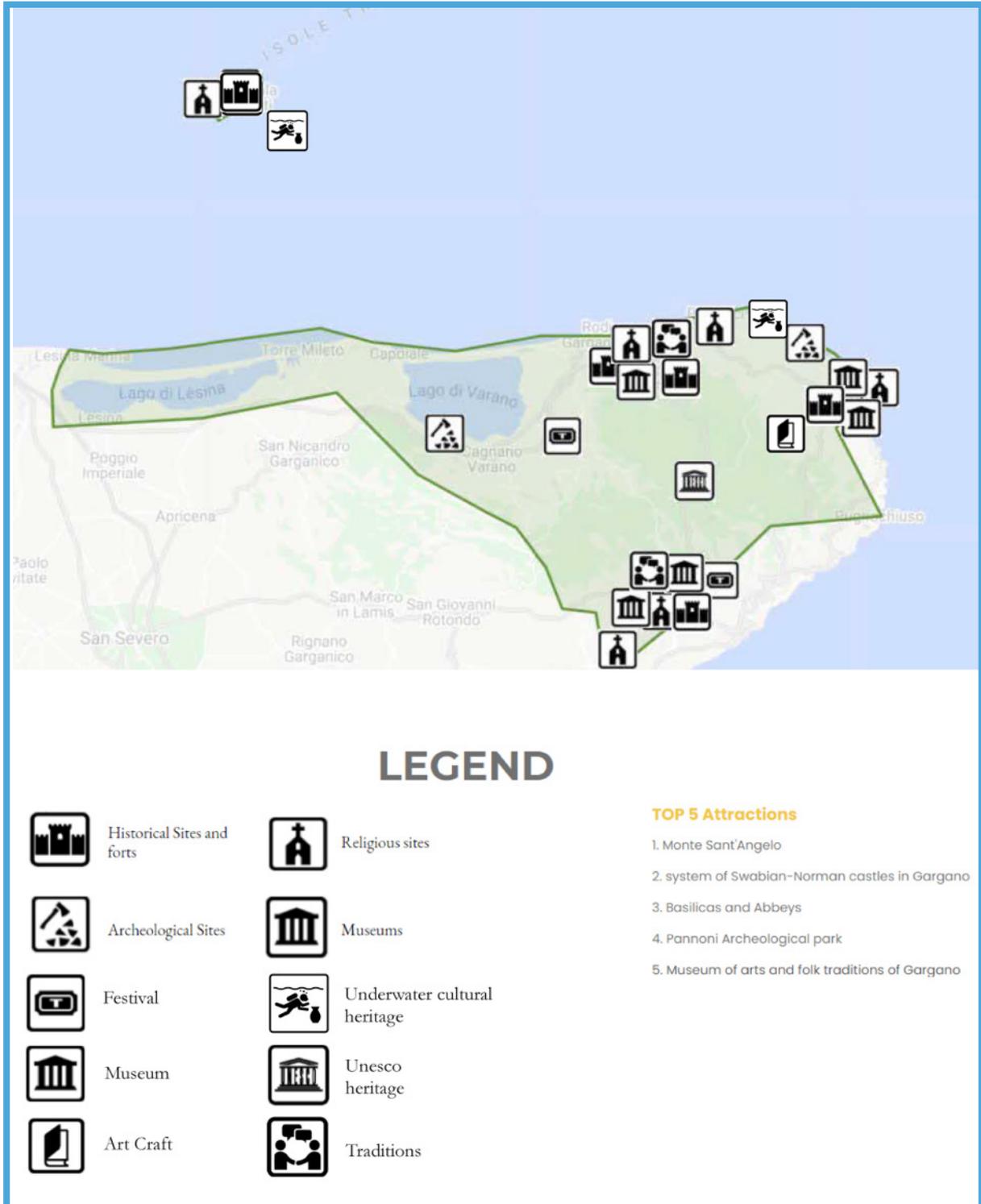
N.4 | Lesina Lake

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Reserve	Lesina Lake	AP.1 Gargano Lesina
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The lake of Lèsina is a typical coastal lake with an elongated shape that runs parallel to the coast; the perimeter is about 50 km for a depth that does not exceed two meters and its waters are salty because they communicate with the Adriatic Sea. The Acquarotta and the Schiapparo are the two channels through which the lagoon communicates with the sea, from which it is separated by a cordon of dunes 16 km long, the Bosco Isola. This is a site of high naturalistic value, one of the most extensive Mediterranean bush sites in Italy. It is also fed by atmospheric precipitations, valleys and aquifers present in the subsoil. The waters of the lake are rich in eels, and in the hot season on its shores you can see the penduline with its characteristic nest hanging on the branches, as well as the cormorant, the egret, the marsh harrier, the stilt gull, the rosy seagull and the kingfisher. The terrestrial flora is mainly characterized by plants such as the elongated agropiro (<i>agropyrum elongatum</i>), rosemary and remains of holm oak forest.</p> <p>https://www.parcogargano.it/servizi/Menu/dinamica.aspx?idSezione=616&idArea=17308&idCat=17840&ID=18283&TipoElemento=pagina</p>		

N.5 | Reserves of ancient beech trees (Falascone and Umbra)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Reserve	Reserves of ancient beech trees	AP.1 Gargano Vico del Gargano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The reserves of Falascone e Umbra are in the heart of the Gargano National Park, is a wooded area of about 56 hectares of the majestic Umbra Forest. It rises along the slopes of the Carpinosa Valley at about 359 meters above sea level.</p> <p>The reserve, characterized by a prehistoric habitat almost disappeared and accessible only for educational and scientific purposes, gushes the water source of the Sfilzi fountain, the only perennial source existing in the mountain and hilly area of the Gargano promontory. The lovers of fauna and flora can admire interesting examples of vegetation such as beech, turkey oak and maple trees and observe animal species such as wild cats and blackbirds.</p>		

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



C.1 | Underwater sculpture of Padre Pio

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological Sites	Underwater sculpture of Padre Pio	AP.1 Gargano Isole Tremiti
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>About 3 meters high, for a weight of 12,25 quintals of bronze, with the arms open and the look turned towards the sky, almost to invite the swimmers to reach it for a fleeting greeting, is the submerged statue of Padre Pio at the Tremiti islands realized by the sculptor Mimmo Norcia from Foggia. It is immersed between the Island of San Nicola and the Capraia island much closer to the latter in the area called the Scoglietti, in a stretch of crystal clear sea.</p>		

C.2 | Archaeological park Pannoni

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archaeological Sites	Archaeological park Pannoni	AP.1 Gargano Cagnano Varano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>About 4 kilometers from Cagnano Varano in the upper part of Bagno-Pannoni a few meters from the lagoon emerge the signs of an early Christian burial hypogeum and the remains of an ancient and charming rocky village consisting of small houses and caves. We visit the archaeological park of Pannoni, archaeological excavations dating back to the fifth century AD. Other caves may have been excavated in the Lower Middle Ages, by populations attracted by the wealth of springs. Others, however, probably dug around the nineteenth century. According to the testimonies of the few fishermen left in the area, the methodology used to dig the rock consisted in the use of a particular ice axe that allowed to cut large blocks of tuff, which were then moved to the shore of the lake Pleistocene.</p> <p>https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/at/13/areaarcheologica/1827/it/Parco-archeologico-I-Pannoni-173-(FG)</p>		

C.3 | Archaeological site and Necropolis of Merinum

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archaeological Sites	Archaeological site and Necropolis of Merinum	AP.1 Gargano Cagnano Varano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>In the area a few km from Foggia and close to the Umbra Forest, the archaeological complex of Merino covers a large territory known as the Roman villa of Merino. Excavations in 1954 brought to light the ancient Greek-Roman-Christian city, the remains of a villa and those of a nearby large agricultural farm, with finds and in the nearby Saracen cave the catacombs of Merino. They were unearthed ollae and large vessels, signs of a significant production of oil, and tunnels, tanks, lunettes, drainage channels and wells, revealing a well-designed hydraulic system. Inside the villa was discovered, in excellent conditions of conservation, a magnificent mosaic depicting a typical rural scene in the central part.</p> <p>https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/at/13/areaarcheologica/2058/it/Necropoli-Merinum</p>		

C.4 | Castle of Monte Sant'Angelo

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Monte Sant'Angelo	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Before being a castle, the site was a Byzantine castrum till the IX century, when Orso bishop of Benevento e Siponto built the castellum de Monte Gargano in 837-838. The castle hosted Empire Frederick the II and had several changes and works, the most important influences are the Aragonesi fortifications which provided the actual structure of the castle. Today it is a visible site and hosts some cultural and artistic productions, making your experience unique.</p> <p>https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/at/1/castellotorre/99/it/Castello-di-Monte-Sant-Angelo-199-(FG)</p>		

C.5 | Svevian-Norman Castle in Vico del Gargano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and Forts	Svevian-Norman Castle in Vico del Gargano	AP.1 Gargano Vico del Gargano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>We are just beyond the year one thousand, the Normans arrived in the south of Italy and began a great defensive work that affects all of southern Italy, without exception. In the Castrum Vici is built an imposing fortress that is added to the first wall built around the year one thousand. In 1240 the Swabian Emperor Frederick II arrived on the Gargano. The manor with the Puer Apuliae is remodeled in appearance and soul: no more defensive needs, the castle is made similar to a patrician residence and becomes the setting of excellence for the hunting trips of the emperor and his sumptuous banquets.</p> <p>The castle underwent other important changes over the centuries, until it reached its final appearance in the 14th century. Today the castle has renounced its original entrance, in favor of a northwest entrance, pointed arches anticipate the entrance to the courtyard, with a well in the center for water supply. A little further ahead there is a gallery with two steps, to facilitate the ascent on horseback of the knights and ladies.</p> <p>The main feature is that inside there are very different architectural forms and styles that give it a great originality.</p>		

C.6 | Castle of Ischitella (Palazzo Ventrella)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Ischitella (Palazzo Ventrella)	AP.1 Gargano Ischitella
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Located on the northern side of the Gargano, the town of Ischitella stands on a hill of olive trees and Mediterranean scrub about 300 meters above sea level, overlooking the Adriatic Sea and Lake Varano, a position that in the past has given the city the role of defensive position.</p> <p>Ischitella was, in fact, an ancient Swabian fortress of which today remain the gates of access to the historic center and the Castle of 1600, now known as Palazzo Ventrella or Palazzo Pinto. Built in the 12th century, it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1649 and entirely rebuilt in 1714 by Prince Francesco Emanuele Pinto, from whom it took its name. Only a small round fragment, in medieval style and located in the southern part of the palace, is still visible. The rooms inside the Castle have rich decorations on the ceilings.</p>		

C.7 | Svevian Castle of Vieste

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and Forts	Svevian Castle of Vieste	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Swabian castle of Vieste stands on the edge of the old town, on a cliff overlooking the sea that overlooks the beach of Scialara. The construction of the castle dates back to 1242 by Frederick II of Swabia, although in the second half of the eleventh century there was already a nucleus built by order of Count Robert Drengot when he began the fortification of the town of Vieste, building the walls and a castle with a square body and cylindrical towers at the highest point of the rock on which is built the old town of Viestana, with the aim of dominating it from the highest point.</p> <p>For the Swabians the castle of Vieste represented one of the royal fortresses with a function of coastal fortification against the possible attacks of the enemies, Venetians in head. Currently it is a military headquarters and is open to the public only during certain events.</p>		

C.8 | Museum of arts and folk traditions of Gargano "G. Tancredi"

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Museum of arts and folk traditions of Gargano "G. Tancredi"	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Museum of Arts and Folk Traditions of Gargano G. Tancredi, housed in the ancient Franciscan Convent of the fourteenth century, preserves the title of the first museum collection in 1925 of the scholar to whom it is dedicated. The current museographic layout of the Museum, realized by the arch. Pietro Batini has been conceived in order to allow the exhibition of a typologically varied material, representative of the whole Gargano territory, with particular attention to the rural and urban working reality of a recent past ('800-'900).</p>		

C.9 | Museum of the basilica of St. Michael

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Museum of the basilica of St. Michael	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Museums of the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel are located in Monte Sant'Angelo in the province of Foggia and is part of the Basilica of St. Michele Arcangelo, built for the first time at the end of the sixth century. In this unusual landscape, a solitary massif on the edge of the Gargano National Park hosts one of the places of the passage of the Argangelo Michael. Here you can experience the atmosphere of the first natural cave. Treasures of the micaelic cult of the museum (TECUM) are the Cave, the annexed Factories, the Devotional Museum, the Lapidary Museum, the Longobard Crypts. The museum contains a documentation of the history of the Basilica and is divided into two thematic collections: Devotional Museum and Lapidary Museum.</p> <p>In Monte Sant'Angelo is also the Museo di arti e tradizioni popolari del Gargano, founded in 1925 it is sited in the ancient Franciscan convent. This museum hosts dresses, daily objectives, art craft and jewelry as testimonials of the genius loci through engaging tales.</p>		

C.10 | Civic Antiquarium Museum of Vico del Gargano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Civic Antiquarium Museum of Vico del Gargano	AP.1 Gargano Vico del Gargano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Since the '70s the Civic Antiquarium Museum of Vico del Gargano houses the archaeological finds from excavations carried out in the area. An interesting collection of archaeological finds occupies the spaces of the Antiquarium Civico di Vico del Gargano, which is divided into two thematic sections. The first section includes tools and traditional work tools such as pottery, arrows, spears, fibulae belonging to funeral outfits, jewelry and amber objects. To these are added some stone artifacts, including pre-Roman and Roman epigraphs.</p> <p>The second section contains archaeological finds ordered from the most ancient, datable between the end of the Stone Age and the Bronze Age.</p>		

C.11 | Civic Archaeological Museum of Vieste

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Civic Archaeological Museum of Vieste	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Built in an old mill in Vieste in 1988, it consists of a natural cave divided into various vaulted rooms. Inside these rooms, were made the various sections of the museum with periods ranging from Prehistory to Protohistory, from Classical to Late Antiquity. It is also possible to observe the reconstruction of an interior of a mine dating back to the Neolithic period. It contains artifacts of the territory, discovered during excavations, such as: spearheads, arrows, inscriptions on stone dating back to the period between the fourth and first century BC. Grave goods dating back to 10,000 years ago. The rooms on the ground floor overlooking the small cloister and some rooms on the second floor of the former Capuchin convent show visitors inscriptions "Le Messapiche", votive inscriptions dedicated to Demeter, goddess of birth and fertility, and the rich nucleus of transport amphorae and anchors in stone and lead, a testimony of the ancient Viestan maritime vocation in Roman and Late Antiquity.</p> <p>http://www.prolocovieste.it/vieste/museo-archeologico/</p>		

C.12 | malacological Museum of Vieste

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Malacological Museum of Vieste	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The malacological museum of Vieste, born from the passion of two spouses, and collects thousands of shells, finds from all over the world and in particular from Mediterranean basin and Asian countries. In this private collection are exhibited about 13,500 specimens from all over the world and in particular from the Philippines and Asian countries. Today this collection is destined to increase and be expanded, in addition to other shells, by shell fossils coming mostly from Morocco and Madagascar.</p> <p>https://www.viaggiareinpuilia.it/at/7/luogocultura/3855/it/Museo-Malacologico-225-(FG)</p>		

C.13 | Museums of wet areas in the Gargano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Museums of wet areas in the Gargano	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Varano and Lesina are the major wet areas in the south of Italy and it hosts an incredible bio and cultural diversity, which is possible to experience, as it is still active in this community. The most important finds, documents, natural specimens and utensils are collected into two museums of this area: The "Museo del Territorio e della Cultura Lagunare" (http://museocagnanovarano.it/) in Cagnano Varano and "Centro Visite di Lesina" (https://centrovisitelesina.it/). Both museums also offer exciting activities in the fascinating natural scenarios of the lagoon and the lake.</p>		

C.14 | Santa Maria a Mare Abbey (Tremi Islands)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious Sites	Santa Maria a Mare Abbey (Tremi Islands)	AP.1 Gargano Isole Tremi
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Located on the island of St. Nicola overlooking the archipelago of the Tremi islands off the Gargano coast in the Adriatic Sea, with its imposing and majestic appearance, is the Abbey of "Santa Maria a Mare" which was built in 1045 AD by the Benedictines, and over the centuries also became a monastery and abbey. Later the facade and the portal were modified with Renaissance decorative motifs. The beautiful pavimental mosaic is one of the key attractions of this Abbazia rounded by crystalline clean water.</p> <p>The interior of the church preserves, almost intact the original layout, with a rectangular plan with 3 naves and a double ambulatory and on the portal reliefs depicting the Virgin Mary with saints and cherubs.</p>		

C.15 | Church of Santa Maria Pura del Gargano (Vico)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious Sites	Church of Santa Maria Pura del Gargano (Vico)	AP.1 Gargano Vico del Gargano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Church of Santa Maria Pura, near Vico del Gargano, was born under the ancient Civita to guard a stream that gives rise to the river Asciatizzi, one of the few perennial waters of the Gargano and the origin of the old fountain kept in the large space below the church. After collecting many other springs it flows into the sea in the municipality of Rodi Garganico (in Molino di Mare). The church is of seventeenth-eighteenth-century plant and is embellished inside with decorations and statues in local stone that are presumed to be baroque Lecce. In this site is also the suggestive washhouse made of stone from the XIV century, when the church has been built.</p>		

C.16 | Santa Maria di Càlena Abbey (Peschici)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious Sites	Santa Maria di Càlena Abbey (Peschici)	AP.1 Gargano Peschici
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Among the many abbeys in the Gargano area is a visit to the Abbey of Santa Maria di Calena in Peschici, which is one of the oldest in Italy. Testimony of an act of donation that in 1023, the bishop of Siponto made to the monks: a vegetable garden, a vineyard, land to cultivate that would allow the Benedictine monks to live without problems. Once a Benedictine convent, the complex has known a period of great prestige, to the point of attracting the attention of one of the centers of the early medieval Italian culture as the Abbey of Montecassino. Contested by the powerful monasteries of Tremiti and Montecassino, it managed to remain independent until 1445, when it was incorporated permanently in Tremiti, under the Lateran Canons. It is certain that the Abbey of Santa Maria di Calena welcomed many pilgrims, famous and not, who landed on the coasts of the North Gargano to go to Monte dell'Angelo.</p>		

C.17 | Vieste Cathedral

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious Sites	Vieste Cathedral	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Having reached the easternmost strip of coast of the Gargano, lying on a rock over the sea, visitors are welcomed by the embrace of history, faith and the beauty of an "ancient and always new" monument. The Cathedral (Basilica) of Vieste in apulian Romanesque style, is located in the upper part of the medieval village more precisely a few steps from the Swabian castle. From the middle of the eleventh century, the building still retains the overall Romanesque-Apulian style and in the bell tower that of the late Baroque. It is among the most famous cathedrals of the land of Puglia, along with those of Bari, Andria and Troy.</p>		

C.18 | Santa Maria di Pulsano Abbey & Eremi

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious Sites	Santa Maria di Pulsano Abbey	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>On a vast plateau, about 8 km from Mount Sant'Angelo, there are the ruins of Santa Maria di Pulsano, built in 591 on the ruins of an ancient pagan temple, dedicated to Calcante, by the monks of the Order of Sant'Equizio.</p> <p>Few notes are the historical events of the Abbey, until the twelfth century, when the intervention of St. John of Matera and his Congregation Pulsanense, made it rise from the serious state of neglect in which it was.</p> <p>The Abbey of Pulsano returned to new life. In 1991, thanks to the "Cristiani Pro Pulsano" movement, made up of volunteers from Manfredonia and Monte Sant'Angelo, the cultural and material recovery of the place began, completed in 1997, with the establishment of a biritual monastic community connected to the dioceses of Manfredonia-Vieste and Piana degli Albanesi.</p> <p>Currently, after numerous interventions of recovery and architectural consolidation, the abbey complex is perfectly usable and visitable; equipped with a guesthouse that can accommodate small groups, organizes, among the many activities, courses of iconography.</p> <p>The land surrounding the Abbazia hosts several Eremi, which are ancient carsic caves used as human settlements since prehistoric ages. In the Christian age they had been used by hermitages for their spiritual meditations, from which they took the name. (www.abbaziadipulsano.org)</p>		

C.18 | S. Maria Maggiore Complex and Tomb of Rotharis

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious Sites	S. Maria Maggiore Complex and Tomb of Rotharis	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The monumental district of San Pietro is a few meters away the UNESCO site of the Santuario di San Michele Arcangelo in Monte Sant'Angelo. The district has origins in the XI century and it includes the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, the first church of the town, made in Romanesque style and the Battistero di San Giovanni in Tumba, also known as Tomba di Rotari. The church has the precious byzantine fresco of San Francesco for his visit in 1216, as well as sculpted column capitals and bas-reliefs. While the Battistero is one of the rare testimonials of the Romanesque dome, embellished by sculpted column capitals and bas-reliefs in the entrance. Close to the Battistero is the rest of the Church of San Pietro, with its aspe and the rose window, which collapsed almost 100 years ago.</p>		

C.19 | Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Unesco Heritage	Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Via Micaelica joins Rome with Monte Sant'Angelo and is also called Via Francigena del Sud. The ancient route from the Roman Castel Sant'Angelo to the Sanctuary of San Michele sul Gargano is a reference point for many pilgrims and is now the subject of a general historical and spiritual rediscovery. The underground cave was probably a place of worship since the Greek domination. The foundation of the sanctuary took place between the fifth and sixth century AD on the initiative of the Bishop of Siponto Lorenzo Maiorano, after three apparitions of the Archangel. Recommended for those who come to Puglia to discover art, history and culture, spirituality and devotion. It is one of the most famous places sacred to the Archangel in the world, set on the ancient Via Sacra Langobardorum. It stands on a hill, surrounded by the typical green and impervious landscape of the Gargano, where the facade welcomes pilgrims with two large arches, surmounted by a niche with the statue of St. Michael. Since June 2011 it is an UNESCO site in the list of human heritage.</p>		

C.20 | UNESCO SITE Reserves of ancient beech trees (Falascone e Umbra)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Unesco Heritage	Foresta Umbra	AP.1 Gargano 7 municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>For some, the name "Umbra" would derive from ancient Umbrian populations who lived in the forest in ancient times; for others, the name would simply derive from the thick vegetation that creates many areas of shade. The Umbra Forest represents the green lung of the Gargano National Park and extends up to about 830 m. of altitude. The forest is thousands of years old and, despite the deforestation and fires that have occurred over the centuries, has preserved, almost entirely, its vegetative mantle. In the highest part there are deciduous trees (black and white hornbeam, maple, downy oak and holm oak). Lower down, the beech trees descend to an altitude of 270 m above sea level, probably due to a particular mixture of climatic and environmental factors. In the undergrowth there are various species of herbaceous flora: from dozens of species of orchids to anemones, from violets to cyclamen. The Umbra Forest is crossed by 14 paths made by the State Forestry Corps, all of them easily walkable. The reserves of Sfilzi and Falascone e Umbra are in the heart of the Gargano National Park, is a wooded area of about 56 hectares of the majestic Umbra Forest. It rises along the slopes of the Carpinosa Valley at about 359 meters above sea level. The reserve, characterized by a prehistoric habitat almost disappeared and accessible only for educational and scientific purposes, gushes the water source of the Sfilzi fountain, the only perennial source existing in the mountain and hilly area of the Gargano promontory. The lovers of fauna and flora can admire interesting examples of vegetation such as beech, turkey oak and maple trees and observe animal species such as wild cats and blackbirds.</p>		

C.21 | Carpino Folk Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festivals	Carpino Folk Festival	AP.1 Gargano Carpino
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Carpino Folk Festival, dedicated to Italian folk music born in 1996, is the first great apulian festival of folk music and its contamination between tradition, passion and territory. It takes place in Carpino, in the Gargano, during the first decade of August. In the economic boom of the fifties of the twentieth century there is an important turning point in the studies on the musical traditions of Gargano and Italy in general that focuses a renewed interest in traditional music and dances by Alan Lomax and Diego Carpitella, as part of a systematic research throughout the peninsula that will lead them to record about 3000 documents.</p>		

13. Internal roots in the Gargano National Park: https://www.parcogargano.it/upload/parcodelegargano/gestionedocumentale/enjoyGargano_Kit_784_3432.pdf

14. deep-dive link: www.carabinieri.it/arma/oggi/organizzazione/organizzazione-per-la-tutela-forestale-ambientale-e-agroalimentare/utcb-e-le-130-riserve-naturali/&ust=1610451840000000&usg=AOvVaw24ooH7LvrWjFvEPpJge&hl=it

C.22 | Mònde Fest

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festivals	Mònde Fest	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>On the Gargano "Mònde" is the dialectal term for the town of Monte Sant'Angelo. A word that at the same time also refers to a higher and more universal dimension. Monte Sant'Angelo for the days of the Festival becomes in fact the destination and starting point of every journey, pilgrimage and walk, a place of exchange, meeting and open confrontation between Arts and Cultures. The colorful pen that appears in the logo: traditionally placed in colored pendentives to decorate the sticks of travelers, witnessed the pilgrimage to the Grotta dell'Arcangelo Michele. "Mònde" is a film festival dedicated to the theme of travel, in all its nuances and meanings, but it is also excursions and walks, "Gargano DOC - School of the documentary on Walks and Cultural Itineraries", workshops, meetings with the authors, exhibitions and concerts, moments of convivial sharing. All this in the unique and charming setting of the historic Rione Junno di Monte Sant'Angelo and within the natural areas of the Gargano National Park.</p>		

C.23 | Patronal Feast of San Michele Arcangelo

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Patronal Feast of San Michele Arcangelo	AP.1 Gargano Monte Sant'Angelo
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>A party felt loved by all, not only by the Montanari. It is the feast of the patron saint of Monte Sant'Angelo, St. Michael the Archangel, patron also of the State Police and protector of the Province of Foggia. This religious appointment attracts peregrines from all the Europe and Mediterranean basin.</p>		

C.24 | San Valentino (Vico del Gargano)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	San Valentino (Vico del Gargano)	AP.1 Gargano Vico del Gargano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>In the days leading up to the anniversary, and until February 16, Vico del Gargano celebrates its patron saint, Valentine's Day, dressing festively, with streets, squares, alleys and entire neighborhoods decorated with laurel, oranges, hearts and lemons. The saint of lovers is the patron saint Vico del Gargano, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. Also this year, as it happens since 1600, the patron saint of lovers returns to be celebrated. Oranges and lemons adorn the statue of the saint carried in procession, as well as coloring churches, streets, squares, portals and balconies and at dinner time you can enjoy a warm "Paposcia" vichese, bread-cake, stuffed, as the peasant tradition wants, with extra virgin olive oil, salt, cacio ricotta cheese and wild rocket.</p>		

C.25 | Carnival of Manfredonia

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Carnival of Manfredonia	AP.1 Gargano Manfredonia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Like every carnival in Italy, it has its roots in Roman times, with reference to the Saturnals. The first modern and institutionalized event took place in 1952. The city of the gulf is animated during the carnival by events that involve the spectators in a carnival dimension, with a series of appointments ranging from February to March.</p> <p>Many voluntary associations and free citizens have been set in motion and have decided to contribute, in a free way, to realize the last edition of the Carnival of Manfredonia.</p>		

C.26 | Fanoja di San Giuseppe

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Fanoja di San Giuseppe	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The tradition of fire has still a strong presence in the active rituals of the apulian community. The most known fest in the Gargano are in San Marco and in Vieste with the Fanoja di San Giuseppe, part of this pilota area. The fest has become an attractive event, since 2011 by the folk group Pizzateche e Muzzeche. The fest has pagan origin to greet the winter with music, dance, wine as for Dionisio's rites. In the last decade national, european and international artists took part in this fest, becoming also a folk music event of national relevance.</p>		

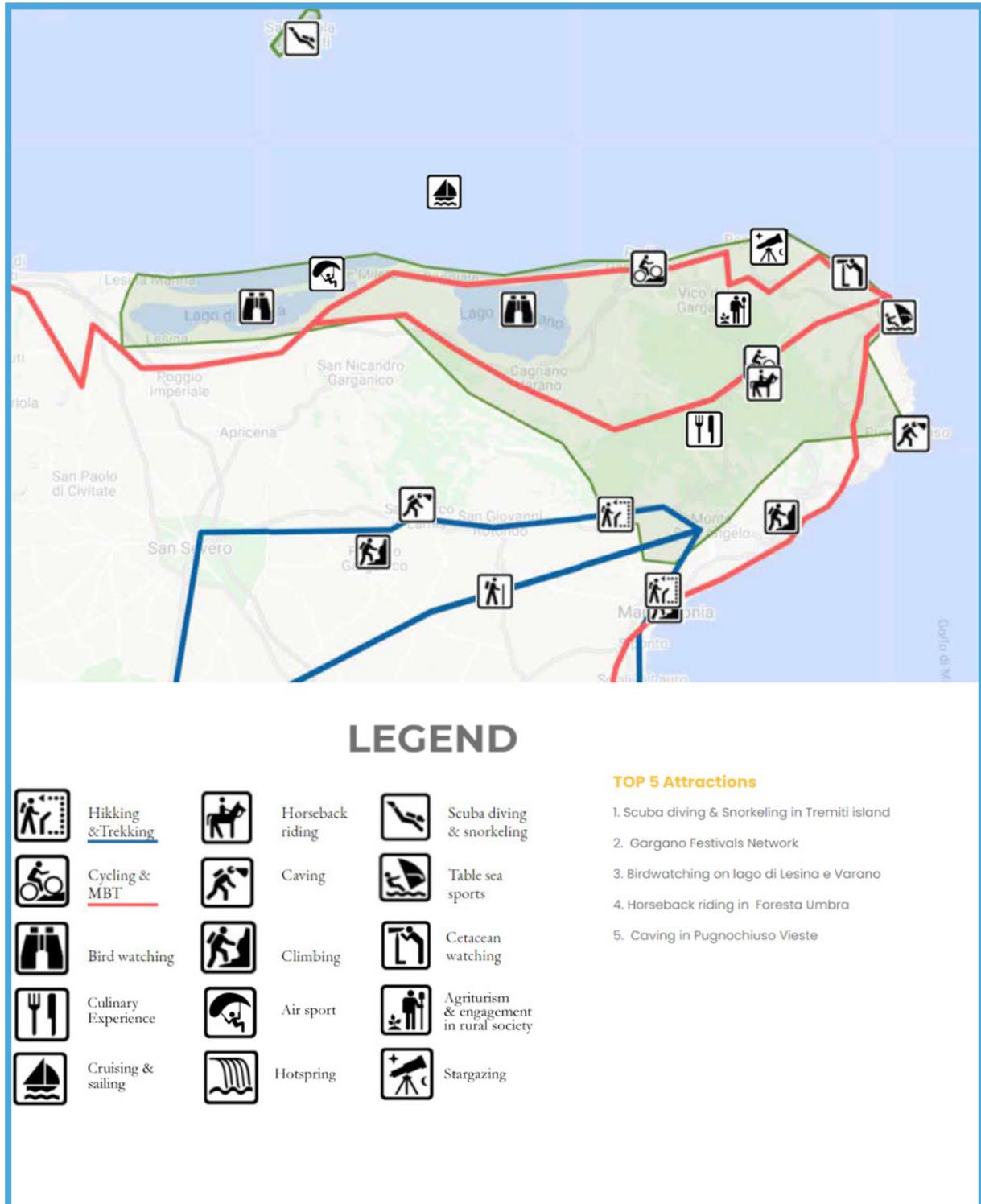
C.27 | Textile art craft tradition of Vico Garganico

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Textile art craft tradition of Vico Garganico	AP.1 Gargano Vico del Gargano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Among the most active art craft traditions in Gargano is the ancient textile tradition in Vico del Gargano. It is a female tradition, handed down from mother to daughter, who still keeps alive the handcrafted looms and the ancient embroidery techniques with silk, wool, linen and gold. The skilled land of old and young women still produce the liturgical clothes and wedding kits for the sacral statues during the week of Saint Valentine recurrence.</p> <p>As the tourism sector is shifting from a full mass-tourism to a more sustainable service and experience, the demand for handmade production souvenirs is increasing, as for the textile production of Vico del Gargano.</p>		

C.28 | Underwater Cultural Heritage in Tremiti Islands

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Underwater Cultural Heritage in Tremiti Islands	AP.1 Gargano Isole Tremiti
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Tremiti Islands sea hosts an important underwater cultural heritage, covering more than two millennia. The three main important sites are part of this study and cover more than two millennia. The first two are part of the shipwrecks findings from I c. AC to XVIII c. DC. The first is Il carico delle tre streghe (The load of the three witches) a luxury commercial load from XXI centuries ago, and the second is Relitto Lombardo (Lombard shipwrecks) from the Milles army led by Garibaldi in middle of the nineteenth century. Both provided key testimonials of settlements and routes in Roman age in the first case and the unification war in the middle of the nineteenth century, in the second one. Further in the clean water of Cararia island 14 meters below the seawater is the sculpture of Padre Pio made by Mimmo Norcia from Foggia in 1999.</p> <p>Three and more reasons to experience and discover the crystal clean waters of Tremiti Islands.</p>		

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES MAP



A.1 | Via Micaelica – Francigena

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Hiking & Trekking	Via Micaelica – Francigena	AP.1 Gargano 10 municipalities
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
398 km	800 m	https://www.viefrancigenedelsud.it/it/resource/tour/a-piedi-roma-troia/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>From Rome to Monte Sant'Angelo in the Gargano, the itinerary is a great stop on the way to Jerusalem on the traces of the cult and the ancient pilgrimage of the Archangel Michael. Its destination is in fact the Michaelic sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo, "locus terribilis" a must for those who had as their destination Siponto, ancient port of embarkation for the coasts of the Near East and the sacred places of Jerusalem. Almost all the ports of Puglia were embarkation points for the Holy Land but the oldest were in Siponto. The ancient Via Appia and then the Via Appia Traiana were the main roads to reach the ports of Puglia but, with the fall of the Roman Empire, internal routes were structured that later will be called "Vie Francigene". Today the path "Vie Francigene in the South". or Via Micaelica, is a fundamental historical route for Italian and European history that has received the mention of "Cultural Itinerary of the Council of Europe".</p>		

A2 | Via Litoranea – Francigena

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Hiking & Trekking	Via Litoranea – Francigena	AP.1 Gargano 15 municipalities
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
3268 km	1347m	https://www.viefrancigenedelsud.it/it/resource/tour/variante-mare/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	4	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Another important Roman road that crossed the Dauno territory in the north/ovest sud/east direction was the so-called via Litoranea. This one skirted the Adriatic Sea as far as Histonium (Vasto), from where it reached Larino and entered Puglia at Teanum Apulum, after having crossed the river Fortore. Leaving on the left the massive Gargano promontory and skirting the course of the river Candelaro reached Siponto and, again along the sea, reached Brindisi. It could be hypothesized that also this road was definitely arranged by the Emperor Trajan, who had a very special interest in the roads of Puglia and the eastern provinces that could be easily reached from it. From the city of Teanum Apulum, the first dauna station on the coast and an important road junction, the road arrives near the current railway station of San Marco in Lamis of the Ferrovie del Gargano. Today it is one of the most popular trekking routes in Europe, accessible and multi-target offers a variety of nature trails and historical and cultural intermediate stages, enjoying the unique views of the coast and the sea of the Gargano.</p>		

A.3 | Route of the three UNESCO sites

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Route of the three UNESCO sites	AP.1 Gargano Bari, Molfetta, Bisceglie, Trani, Andria, Castel del Monte, Altamura, Matera, Gioia del Colle
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
300 km	-	https://www.bikebasilicata.it/unesco-sites/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The route is mostly on secondary roads with little traffic, mainly on asphalt suitable for road bikes. The area is mostly hilly with short and easy climbs near some villages.</p> <p>Cycling by the sea and on the hills of Alta Murgia, then visit Trani, with its port and beautiful cathedral and Castel del Monte, with its mysterious octagonal castle built by Frederick II. After crossing the Bradano Valley, on roads surrounded by hills of wheat, head towards Matera, with its ancient Sassi, dwellings carved into the rock. The journey ends in Itria Valley, between the trulli of Alberobello and Ostuni, the "white city".</p>		

A4 | Ciclovia Adriatica

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovia Adriatica	AP.1 Gargano 15 municipalities
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
1300 km	-	http://www.bicitalia.org/it/bicitalia/gli-itinerari-bicitalia/131-bi6-ciclovia-adriatica
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Leaving the state highway to enter Puglia, along quieter roads passing through Chieuti and Lesina starting point for the coastal tour of the Gargano challenging, but beautiful. As an alternative to the tour of the Gargano an internal variant allows you to continue beyond Manfredonia to the salt pans of Margherita di Savoia. Following the chain of coastal cities Barletta, Trani, Bisceglie, Molfetta, Giovinazzo, Bari connected by minor roads. After Bari the main resource that can be used by the cyclist today are the coplanar roads, which have not a high traffic. So you get to Brindisi using sections of the consular via Appia Traiana revitalized as a cycle route. After Brindisi the settlements take us away from the coast and we reach Lecce on a minor roadway among secular olive trees. From here, we commit the coast to Otranto then we head after several ups and downs towards Leuca on the high coast overlooking the sea.</p>		

A.5 | Birdwatching in Lago di Lesina & Laguna di Varano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Birdwatching	Birdwatching in Lago di Lesina & Laguna di Varano	AP.1 Gargano Lesina, Varano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Nature Reserve Lago di Lesina, is a protected natural area within the Gargano National Park. Those who practice birdwatching will certainly find satisfaction in this beautiful lake area. Near its waters live several ornithological species, including kingfishers, flamingos, pink gulls, marsh harriers and that you will certainly not miss during a trip to the Lesina lake. It is a wetland occupied by dense reeds and habitats that are an ideal environment for birds such as the egret, the cormorant, the marsh harrier, the rosy gull, the spatula and the Cavaliere d'Italia. Species that live there all year round. Nestled in the Gargano National Park, in the province of Foggia, with its perimeter of about 37 kilometers and an area of 60.5 square kilometers, Lake Varano is the largest in southern Italy.</p> <p>It is fed by underwater springs and communicates with the sea through two passages called Foce Varano and Foce Capoiale. The pine, eucalyptus and mastic trees stand out mainly along the stretch of sandy coast that separates the lake from the Adriatic Sea. Six thousand five hundred hectares of land, a dream landscape and an extremely varied birdlife. The Varano lagoon, in the province of Foggia, is the largest in the South and among the largest in Italy. Among the attractions that it guarantees to visitors arriving in the area there is that of birdwatching. As in all wetlands, there are many species of birds that can be photographed with patience and attention: herons, cormorants, ducks and many other specimens that fans can observe during a walk on the lake.</p>		

A.6 | Horseback-riding in Foresta Umbra

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Horseback-riding	Horseback-riding in Foresta Umbra	AP.1 Gargano Foresta Umbra
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Umbra Forest nature reserve is a protected natural area located within the Gargano National Park. It extends in the central-eastern area of Gargano, about 800 meters above sea level. The name "Umbra", derives from the Latin: dark, shady, as then, and as in part today, it appears. Immersed in the fascinating and unspoiled Gargano National Park, you can cross it and visit it, where allowed, with long walks and trekking or on horseback. These activities are not only reserved for experienced riders, but also for beginners, offering the opportunity to participate both with their own horses and by renting typical Murgia horses. Riders can enjoy nature trails and wild tracks, living an unforgettable experience in the heart of the Gargano, and getting to know different realities and places, such as Bosco Quarto, the Umbra Forest, Monte Spigno, and many others.</p>		

A.7 | Vieste – Lido di Portonuovo – Pugnochiuso

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Caving	Vieste – Lido di Portonuovo – Pugnochiuso	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The coast of Gargano, especially the stretch from Vieste to Mattinata is one of the most beautiful landscapes of Puglia: high white cliffs overlooking the sea, with pine trees, brooms and cypresses that stretch over the blue waters alternate with small coves and beaches of white gravel reachable only by sea. Millennia after millennia with methodical slowness, the waves of the sea have eroded the limestone coast of the Gargano shaping natural scenery, of which no hand would have been capable, opening gashes, cracks and tunnels. Right here, in the summer season you can take part in the tours of the caves by motorboat departing from the port of Vieste where you can also admire the bay of Pugnochiuso with its caves, San Felice with the famous "Architiello", the bay of Campi, the stacks of the Zagare bay and the beaches of Porto Greco.</p>		

A.8 | San Nicandro Caving – San Marco in Lamis

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Caving	San Nicandro Caving – San Marco in Lamis	AP.1 Gargano Foggia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Land of faith, legends and folklore, San Marco in Lamis is one of the most interesting centers of the Mountain of the Sun to visit during a vacation in the Gargano. Nestled in the middle of a karst basin and surrounded by thick forests, San Marco in Lamis is a destination much appreciated also by lovers of nature, speleology and archaeology. In addition to the Dolina Pozzantina, the spectacular natural amphitheater that can be admired along the road that connects San Marco to San Nicandro Garganico, is also present in the Bosco Difesa, within which there is also the Grotta di Montenero, one of the most famous of the Gargano, with its enchanting scenery of stalactites and stalagmites. To discover these hypogean architectures of nature you just have to treat yourself to a speleological tour in this site and in the many others in the surroundings.</p>		

A.9 | Climbing in the National Park of Gargano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Climbing	San Nicandro Caving - San Marco in Lamis	AP.1 Gargano Foggia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>For lovers of climbing, the Gargano offers a wide range of routes and cliffs, suitable for every need. The most important ones are the Palombaio, the Morning and the Ripe Rosse.</p> <p>Valle Palombara (Palombaio): this beautiful cliff is located below the village of Rignano Garganico, which rises high above the mountains of Gargano and descends slowly towards the sea. On the ridge between the green bush you can see small paretine that run along the road that leads to the village and a little further a series of small cracks.</p> <p>Ripe Rosse - Mattinata cliff: in the municipality of Mattinata, the wall, immersed in the Gargano National Park and with a beautiful view of the sea, is exposed to the northwest, has a solid and compact rock. On the wall was found only one existing route and, after careful cleaning work, were bolted routes of different degrees.</p> <p>Manfredonia - crag Olimpo: Discovered in the early 80's by Pasquale Porcelli, and continued at more or less regular intervals by various climbers, with various reworkings and re-bolting. Since it has been abandoned for a while many routes are not accessible due to the presence of brambles under the walls, but are currently under maintenance to be reopened.</p> <p>All sports climbing activities within the protected area must be carried out in compliance with the regulations of the Gargano National Park Authority.</p>		

A.10 | Scuba diving & Snorkeling in the Tremiti Islands

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Scuba diving & Snorkeling	Scuba diving & Snorkeling in the Tremiti Islands	AP.1 Gargano Tremiti
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Snorkeling is an activity within everyone's reach, but one that encapsulates a highly exciting experience, discovering marine wonders within flipper reach. The Tremiti Islands boast a real paradise for those who want to live this adventure. The seabed of the archipelago is populated by an incredible variety of marine species and sandy areas perfect for snorkeling. The Tremiti Islands have at least fifty points of interest for diving and snorkeling.</p>		

A.11 | Table sea sport in Vieste

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Table sea sport	Table sea sport in Vieste	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Vieste offers water sports enthusiasts numerous possibilities: many associations and clubs where you can learn and practice kitesurfing, surfing or sailing.</p> <p>The first approach with these sports takes place in a bay where the 'flat water reaches the hips, then the top for those who want to learn or train. The position of the bay allows those who practice to progress safely or train with winds blowing from North and South constant and even thermal. With the help of light and easily maneuverable equipment.</p>		

A.12 | Cetaceans watching in Gargano sea

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cetaceans watching	Table sea sport in Vieste	AP.1 Gargano Vieste
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Along the coast of Gargano is also possible, in the less crowded and off-season, to board fishing boats and admire the huge cetaceans that live and reproduce off these coasts. The Cetacean watching, an incredible spectacle, made possible by the particular habitat conditions present in these places.</p>		

A.13 | Culinary Activities

Smell of bread and orange blossom

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Smell of bread and orange blossom	AP.1 Gargano

EVALUATION

Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	5

DESCRIPTION

A slow itinerary to enjoy landscapes and flavors outside the tourist routes, along the streets of pilgrims, in search of dishes of ancient memory. Some stops are obligatory, such as in Mattinata, an ancient port of commerce of wine and oil, where sheep and goat cheese are produced, and there are fruits and vegetables with a unique flavor. Do not miss Monte S. Angelo to enjoy the famous bread with a drop of extra virgin olive oil Dauno DOP.

Crossing the Umbra Forest, then, you reach Vico del Gargano and Rodi Garganico, to taste the citrus PGI, one of the oldest varieties in Italy. They are Slow Food Presidium, together with the podolica cow, the caciocavallo, the goat of the Gargano and the tender fava beans of Carpino. For those who want to fish cannot be missed a stop at the Trabucchi di Peschici for an aperitif at sunset or on the Lakes of Lesina and Varano. While typical of Ischitella, a beautiful medieval village between the sea and the lagoon of Varano, are the Calzoni filled with onions, raisins and anchovies and the sweet crunchy baskets and almond paste in the shape of fruit.

2.2.2 Murgia

NATIONAL PARK OF ALTA MURGIA [PILOT AREA N.2]

ph: Natalia Insalata; WildRatFilm; Verso Sud festival



The National Park of Alta Murgia sites among the provinces of Bari and BAT¹⁵. BAT province is the lowest in terms of arrivals and nights, on both an absolute and relative¹⁶ point of view. While looking at the province of Bari, PNAM is in the municipalities with the lowest touristic presence in the province, which has the main touristic presence in the southern coast with Bari, Polignano and Monopoli. Well, looking at this data PNAM does not seem the most amazing place where you can have a great adventure experience. Fortunately, numbers lie sometimes and this is the case. Thanks to the low touristic pressure over the past decades an impressive natural, cultural and experiential assets had been preserved. Going back to the adventure meaning declared in the introduction of this chapter, this is really the place where you can have your adventure, open your mind

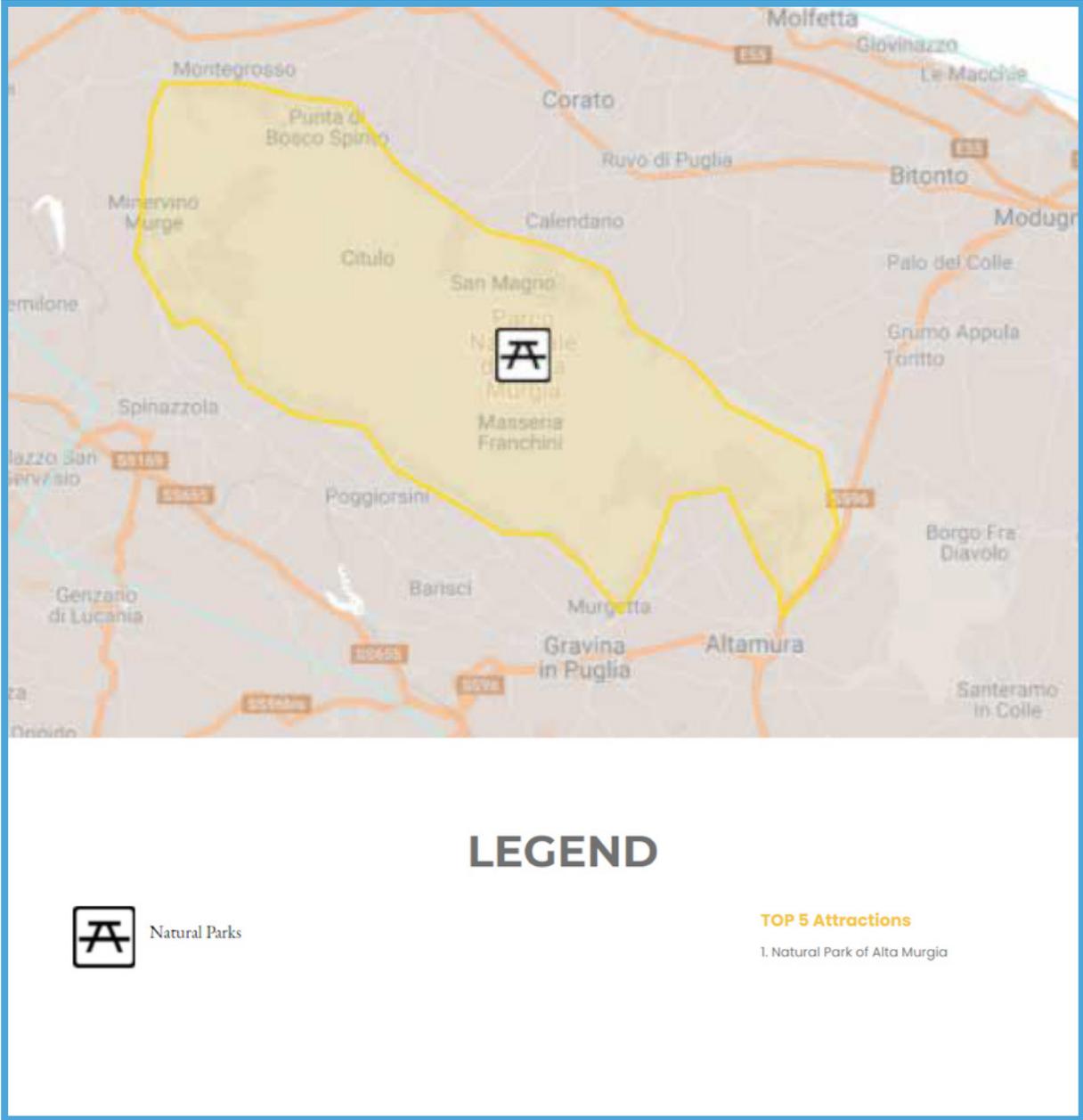
and soul and welcome the life and the centenary mediterranean miscellaneous culture of these places.

Therefore, the potential of this area toward adventure tourism is very high, for both hard and soft adventure tourism. The immense natural biodiversity will be the background of your experience, through Romanesque churches, Neolithic traces, ancient rituals and very dynamic cultural and artistic production. The future effort should be to link the dots, to create an unique tale of this area where visitors can easily move in, being natural and immediate to live and feel the link among the sacral soul and the culinary experiences in this place, the romanesque architecture and the dynamic cultural and artistic production, the innovation spirit and the green gold: the olive oil.

15. BAT: Barletta Andria Trani

16. Relative in terms of population and extension.

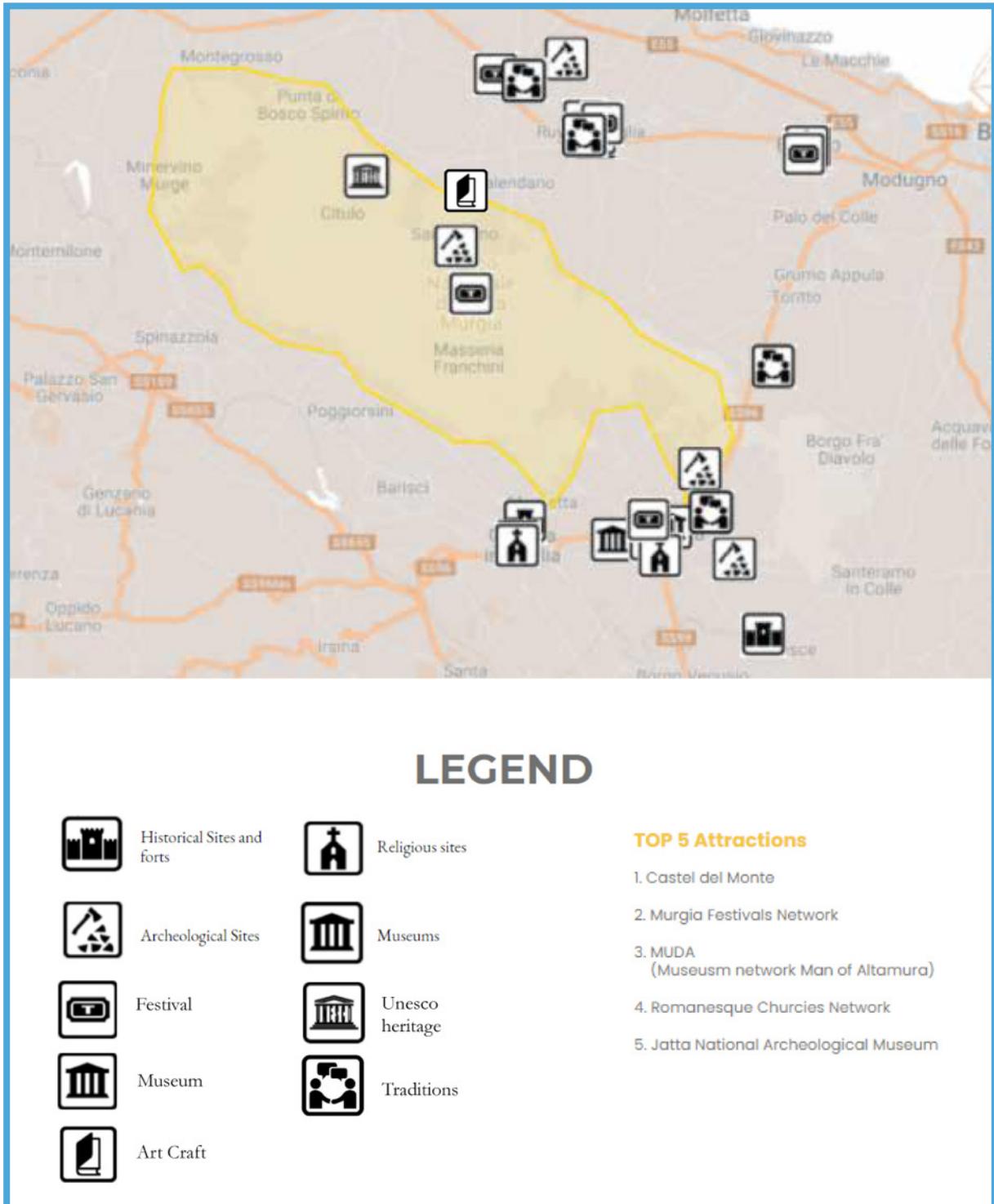
NATURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



N.1 | National Park of Alta Murgia

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Park	National Park of Alta Murgia	AP.2 Murgia 13 municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The National Park of Alta Murgia is located in the middle of the region and covers a part of the whole Murgia land, which extends in the south and Basilicata, covering the Murgia Materana, where the Città dei Sassi has its place. The park hosts two priority habitats, which are: "Grasslands on limestone substrate" and "Substeptic paths of graminaceous and annual plants". Main feelings running Murgia are a sense of vastness, freedom and horizontality, capturing sea, hills and mountains in a single glance. Here you can experience the strong link among nature and humans, which involved all kinds of people: the farmer, the shepherd, the imperator, the craftsman, the noble person and the eremit. All of them left a tangible sign you can experience today. Not just humans left a sign over millennia, it is the case of Cava Pontrelli in Altamura where there are traces of dinosaur.</p>		

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



C.1 | Lamalunga cave

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological Sites	Lamalunga cave and the Man of Altamura	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Lamalunga cave is located on the door of Altamura, in the karst land of National Park of Alta Murgia. The cave is accessible only to experts, with its narrow tunnels. Speleologists discovered the famous Man of Altamura in this cave. It is the fossil skeleton of a genus Homo who probably lived during the Middle-Upper Pleistocene.</p>		

C.2 | Pontrelli quarry and dinosaurs parks

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological Sites	Pontrelli quarry and dinosaurs parks	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
1	1	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Pontrelli quarry is a private site in the south east of Altamura, on the road to Santeramo in Colle. This cave hosts a 70 million years old treasure: the footprints of dinosaurs. For those who love prehistoric history, it is a must visit place. The best would be during a cycling trip.</p>		

C.3 | Necropolis of San Magno

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological Sites	Necropolis of San Magno	AP.2 Murgia Corato
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Necropolis of San Magno is located 13 Km south east from Corato, in an area locally known as "Pescara degli antichi" (ancient tank). The area is easily accessible and well served. In fact, here is an ancient Masseria where you can relax having full comfort, here is also the Chiesetta di San Magno which is one of the rural churches in better condition. Finally here is the Necropolis in the dolmen-style aged among VII and VI century B.C.</p>		

C.4 | Dolmen Chianca dei Paladini

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Archeological Sites	Dolmen Chianca dei Paladini	AP.2 Murgia Corato
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The legend says "Paladini" (giants) had a challenge of strength on who raised the biggest stone, so the Dolmen born from this challenge. Shifting from legend to history, the dolmen is dated almost 1500 BC and most likely it was a tomb made by the tribe that dominated the land at that time.</p>		

C.5 | Castle of Gravina

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Historic sites and forts	Castle of Gravina	AP.2 Murgia Gravina
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Murgia is also part of Puglia Imperiale, which is the part of the region where the main traces of Frederick II Emperor are located. Among them is the Castle of Gravina, which was used mainly for hunting purposes and for the meeting with curia. Today you can admire a fascinating Svevian ruin.</p>		

C.6 | Masseria Jesce

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and forts	Masseria Jesce	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>In the middle of the Murgian triangle of Altamura, Santeramo and Matera in Masseria Jesce. This is a magic place, where you can feel spirituality, hard work and people passing through this place. The numerous caves surrounding the building host a sacred soul, as for the cave-crypt of Saint Michael with its wonderful frescos and sculptures. The main building is an architectural-engineering masterpiece, for its position, wind, energy and water management. The first noble floor hosts works of contemporary art. Donato Laborante is a storyteller, he is the caretaker of this place, he will welcome you with its warm and fascinating stories.</p>		

C.7 | MUDA (Museums network of Man of Altamura)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	MUDA (Museums network of Man of Altamura)	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The "Man of Altamura" is one of the most important Neolithic archaeological discoveries worldwide. Taking place in Altamura, the MUDA museum network has been built. This network embeds the visit center of Lamalunga, the National Archeological Museum in Altamura and Palazzo Baldassarre.</p>		

C.8 | Ethnographic Museum of Altamura

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Ethnographic Museum of Altamura	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>For those who like to have an immersive experience in the traditional local culture a visit in this museum is a must. Here it is possible to find objectives and traces of the rural and pastoral culture of Murgia, with working and domestic objects.</p>		

C.9 | Jatta National Archaeological Museum

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Jatta National Archaeological Museum	AP.2 Murgia Ruvo di Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Jatta National Archaeological Museum is among the rare examples of private collections of the XIX century worldwide. This museum hosts among the most important archeological collections of the region with wonderful pieces of greek art and culture, from VII to IV century BC.</p>		

C.10 | Pinacoteca Cantatore

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Pinacoteca Cantatore	AP.2 Murgia Ruvo di Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Domenico Cantatore was an artist (painter, illustrator and writer) of the XX century, among the most important from Puglia. He got success in Europe, mainly in Paris, where he met and had been contaminated by the main artist of the beginning of the century. Ruvo has dedicated him this space, which hosts some of his works linked to Murgia culture, as well as a very dynamic cultural center where local artistic organizations bring their research works.</p>		

C.11 | Devanna National Gallery

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Devanna National Gallery	AP.2 Murgia Bitonto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Sylos Calò palace is among the best examples of apulian architecture of the XVI century. Here is the most important collection of modern art in Puglia. The exposition has five main blocks, one for each century, from the XVI to the XX century. This is a must visit with the romanic Cathedral, when you come to Bitonto.</p>		

C.12 | Museum of Foundation Pomarici-Santomasi

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Museum of Foundation Pomarici-Santomasi	AP.2 Murgia Gravina in Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>In the heart of the old town of Gravina there is the Foundation Pomarici-Santomasi. The foundation has a very wide range of exhibitions: picture gallery, archeology, weapons and war, coins, dresses, ethnography, library, noble apartments and rooms as well as carriages and pottery.</p>		

C.13 | Assunta Cathedral (Altamura)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Assunta Cathedral (Altamura)	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Cattedrale dell'Assunta in Altamura is the unique religious architecture built by Friedrich II Emperor around 1230. It is also unique for the styles added over the years: romantic architecture, renaissance sculptures, baroque cusps as well as neoclassical interiors. The original romanic portal is a masterpiece.</p>		

C.14 | Convent of San Domenico (Altamura)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Convent of San Domenico (Altamura)	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Convent of San Domenico may be the first architecture you will be impressed by coming to Altamura. It is located suddenly out of the old town walls. The first distinctive element is the one fully covered by turquoise majolica. The church inside hosts the original marble altar and a painted sculpture of the XVII century. Here is also the civic library archive of the city with more 64000 volumes and paintings.</p>		

C.15 | Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo Cathedral – bitonto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo Cathedral (Bitonto)	AP.2 Murgia Bitonto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Cathedral of Bitonto is among the most important and beautiful examples of romantic art in Puglia. It is dedicated to Saint Valentine and has been built during the XI and XII century. Its architectural style and structure is very close to Saint Nicholas Basilica in Bari. This site has several architectural and artistic uniqueness to be discovered with local guides; among them we cite the Portale della scomunica, which is the last portal on the right-side form which Gregor IX Pope excommunicated Friedrich II Emperor accusing him to make a deal with sultan Al Kamil.</p>		

C.16 | Co-Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta (Gravina)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Co-Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta (Gravina)	AP.2 Murgia Gravina in Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Co-Cathedral of Gravina dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta, was built by the Normans around the year 1000. A rose window bearing the Assumption in the center overlooks the main entrance, enlivening the facade marked by three entrances decorated with figures carved in high relief. The interior has a basilica plan, with an elegant interplay of arches, columns, mullioned windows and capitals. The baroque ceiling is in carved and gilded wood, while the eighteenth-century altars of the Neapolitan school follow one another along the aisles.</p>		

C.17 | Co-Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta (Ruvo di Puglia)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Co-Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta (Ruvo di Puglia)	AP.2 Murgia Ruvo di Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Co-Cathedral of Ruvo di Puglia is dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta and is the main religious monument of the city. Built between the 12th and 13th centuries, the church blends the Gothic-Swabian style with elements of apulian Romanesque. It has the Latin cross plan, divided into three naves. The hypogeum of the cathedral houses an important archaeological heritage, including tombs, floors and mosaics from the Peucetian, Roman and early medieval periods. You will be impressed by the volume proportion of this architecture, as well as by the big rose window.</p>		

C.18 | Castel del Monte

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Unesco sites	Castel del Monte	AP.2 Murgia Andria
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Octagonal plant, eight octagonal plant towers, eight main rooms per floor, octagonal patio and so on. The number eight in architecture is Castel del Monte, it means new creation and infinity in esoteric tradition. The Castle is located in Andria, on a hill (monte) from which you can cover with a look the sea from Gargano to Bari and beyond in clear days, as well as the Murgia promontory. The reasons why of this architecture are not so clear. The most suggestive hypothesis is it was an initiatic experience building, something similar to contemporary art installation, but on an architecture level, involving all the senses and consciousness.</p>		

C.19 | Talos Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festival	Talos Festival	AP.2 Murgia Ruvo di Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Talos Festival since 1993 is among the key production engines of culture in Murgia land. The project has a strong research tradition on both traditional and experimental musical languages. Crazy big band performances and musical research are the peculiar features of Talos. Since 2017 the festival has become multidisciplinary, hosting an important section of contemporary and community dance.</p>		

C.20 | Sounds of Murgia

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festival	Sounds of Murgia	AP.2 Murgia Murgia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Suoni della Murgia (Sounds of Murgia) is a cultural association based in Altamura that collaborates in projects for the rediscovery, protection and knowledge of the cultural heritage of Alta Murgia. The festival was born in 2003, becoming one of the most important international folk music festivals in Puglia. This cultural project promotes study and research of ethnic music, as well as a moment of strong cultural exchange between mediterranean cultures</p>		

C.21 | Bitonto Blues Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festival	Bitonto Blues Festival	AP.2 Murgia Bitonto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Bitonto Blues Festival (BBF) is a blues music festival, which recurses yearly since 2003 in the first week of September. The festival hosts important artists of national and international fame, with a rich and variegated range of events, as well as an ambitious territorial marketing plan.</p>		

C.22 | Festival Castel dei Mondi

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festival	Festival Castel dei Mondi	AP.2 Murgia Andria
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Festival Castel dei Mondi is a performing art festival at its XX edition. It takes place all around the city of Andria and Castel del Monte. Experiences offered by this festival are very immersive and create a strong link with the visitor. The public strongly increased over the years reaching 12k live visitors and more than double online. In the past two editions, the festival offers also online experiences and shows, being ready for Covid-restrictions.</p>		

C.23 | Festival dei Claustri

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festival	Festival dei Claustri	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The "Festival dei Claustri" is an experiment of voluntary and participatory action by citizens for the regeneration of the ancient village. Claustri are open courts in the old town, a sort of free open-air condominium. Among the objectives is the improvement of the usability and liveability of the Claustri, a peculiarity of the city. The project focuses on one side on the history and architecture of the Claustri and on the other on the redevelopment of some of them. The project reaches its goals by cultural activities, such as conferences, theatrical, musical, dance, literature, laboratory activities and urban regeneration.</p>		

C.24 | Artist's lights and sounds

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festival	Artist's Lights and Sounds	AP.2 Murgia Ruvo di Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Luci e Suoni d'Artista (Artist's Lights and Sounds) is a project of the Department of Culture of Ruvo di Puglia, since three years, created with professionals and citizens of all ages, to illuminate the city with self-produced works. The construction workshops of light works are open to all citizens who want to increase their skills and competences under the guidance of experts in a completely free way. The activities concern the production and restoration of light works, photography, creative writing and origami workshops.</p>		

C.25 | Verso Sud Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festival	Verso Sud Festival	AP.2 Murgia Corato
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Verso Sud is a cultural project born in Corato in 2015 as a public art and performing arts festival produced by the cultural association Lavorare Stanca. The festival takes place in september/october every 2 years bringing together actors and spectators, artists and places in a same tale, mood and feeling for a week. The main arts involved are poetry, theater, music, exhibitions, visual and performing arts. Since 2018 Verso Sud opened to a wider perspective reaching 10 projects in its portfolio: from Controra, the emotion-based school, to Sudestasi, the artistic residences in the Murgia, from Systema Naturae, art & science on nature, to Street Art & Santità, contemporary sacral public art.</p>		

C.26 | Coratino Carnival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Coratino Carnival	AP.2 Murgia Corato
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Coratino Carnival is one of the historical events promoted and organized by the Pro Loco "Quadratum", an association for local tourism and cultural promotion. Reaching its forty-first edition, over the years it acquired great importance and fame until it became the reference carnival festival for the whole north of Bari. Characteristic is the massive participation of masked groups organized by schools, local associations, parishes and private citizens participating in the prize competition.</p>		

C.27 | Ottosanti Procession

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Ottosanti Procession	AP.2 Murgia Ruvo di Puglia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Middle of the night, a drum death-ritmo spread out across the old town. People gather in a big square, the band arrives, the "Processione degli Ottosanti" begins. It is an ancient religious rite, which is part of the rituals in the Holy Week. In Ruvo this tradition has very ancient roots which go back to the XVI century, when several confraternities were born for taking its own part in this rite. It is a very suggestive experience, you feel back in the ancient time. It is because this is not an historical reconstruction, it is still a living rite.</p>		

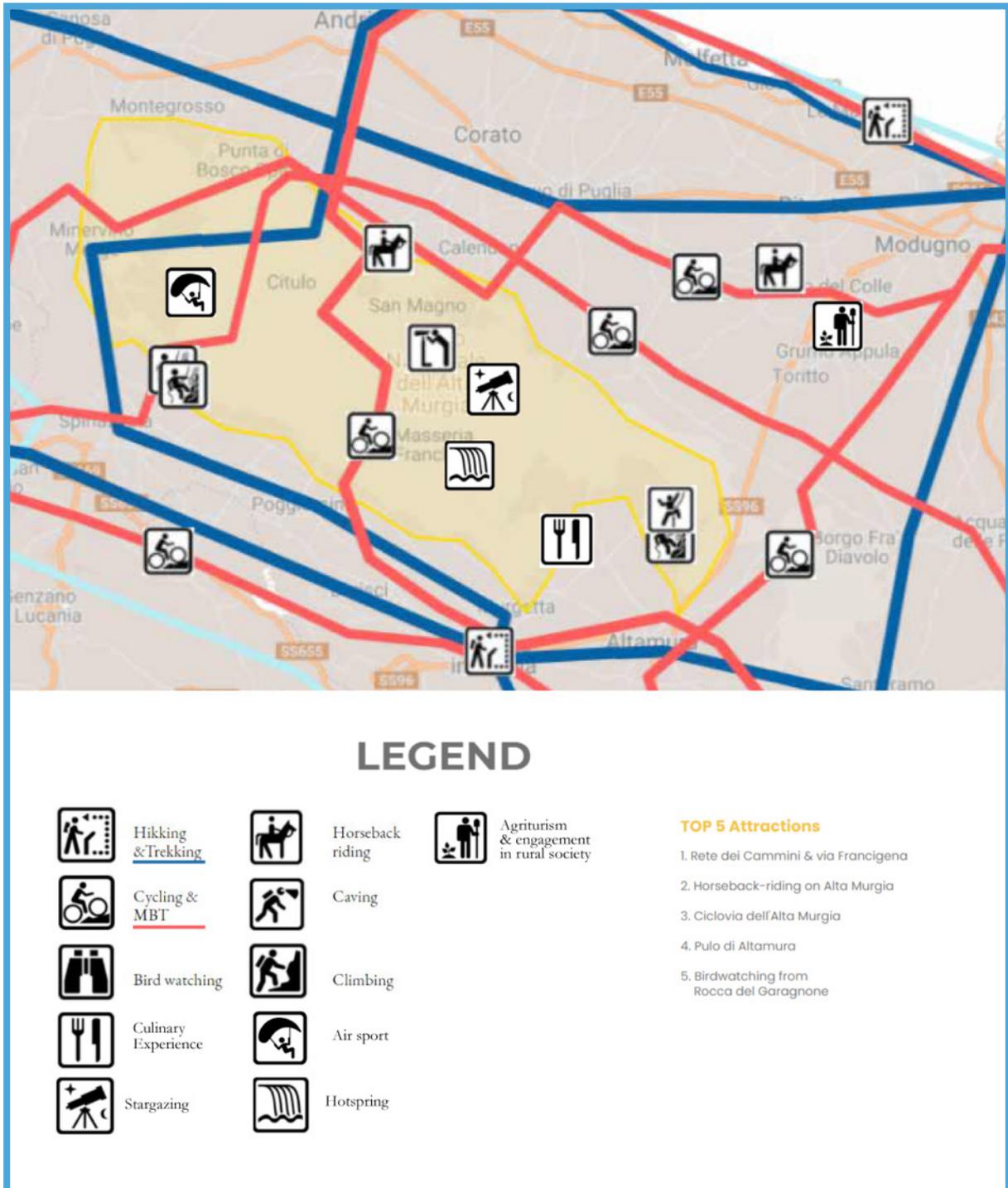
C.28 | Federicus (Altamura)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Federicus (Altamura)	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Federicus is a medieval festival and was born in 2018 from the desire to enhance the territory of the city of Altamura, the most populous center of the Alta Murgia. It takes place during spring and includes shows and animations with jesters, musicians and buffoons, as well as falconry shows. This festival involves local cultural organizations and citizens, becoming a huge feast for the community, as well as for the thousand of visitors from all over Europe.</p>		

C.29 Festival dei Tammurr & Madonna del Mellitto		
Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Festival dei Tammurr & Madonna del Mellitto	AP.2 Murgia Grumo Appula
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Festival dei Tammurr, born in 1969, takes place in the summer months. International folk groups perform throughout the countryside together with local bands and small groups of musicians who usually open the processions. The feast of the Madonna di Mellitto takes place in the same period. The main part of the feast consists in a procession from the streets of the Grumo Appula to the dedicated sanctuary. Here is a byzantine icon of the Madonna, which protects the crops. The preparation of the fest strongly involves the local community, mainly for the chariot and its paper-flowers decorations.</p>		

C.30 Ferula art craft tradition		
Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Art craft	Ferula art craft tradition	AP.2 Murgia Murgia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Ferula is an iconic plant of the National Park of Alta Murgia and the whole Mediterranean basin. Shepherds and craftsmen used the dried frustum for producing daily and working utensils, thanks to the strength and light features of this plant. The most famous product is u' scann. It is a sort of multifunction minimalist design object, which is a seat, a small table, or a stool. Over the years some artists also have been inspired by this fascinating material, as for the artist Angelo Margherita from Santeramo.</p>		

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES MAP



A.1 | Via Traiana

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Hiking & Trekking	Via Traiana - Francigena	AP.2 Murgia Bitonto, Ruvo di Puglia
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
291.9 km	249 m	www.viefrancigenedelsud.it
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Via Traiana connects Rome with S.M. Leuca, the most southern part of Puglia. It arrives in the region in the town Troia crossing the Tavoliere delle Puglie and arriving at doors of Murgia in Ruvo di Puglia and Bitonto, then it follows the coast. This route surrounds the northern part of the Park going through the immense expense of olive trees of the countryside. If you walk this way take a break for enjoying the cousin and romanesque architectures.</p>		

A.2 | Cammino Materano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Hiking & Trekking	Cammino Materano	AP.2 Murgia 8 municipalities
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
170 km	139 m	https://camminomaterano.it/via-peuceta
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The via Peuceta, is the Matera's route that starts from the Basilica of San Nicola di Bari, symbol of the pilgrimage in Puglia and crosses the ancient territory of Peucezia, the current central-northern land of the region. Walking this route, you'll pass from the lush forest of olive trees that characterizes the coastal plain, to the steppes of the Murgia plateau, then the forests of conifers and oaks, up to the karst engravings (blades and ravines) that constitute the fascinating rocky scenery in which rise Gravina in Puglia and Matera. 170 km of easy trekking in which to discover the rich cultural heritage of Puglia and Lucania.</p>		

A.3 | Via Appia

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Hiking & Trekking	Via Appia	AP.2 Murgia Gravina in Puglia
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
525.3 km	1347 m	https://www.viefrancigenedelsud.it/it/resource/statictrack/appia-antica/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Within the territory of Ginosa you can access the apulian paths of the Via Appia, known as "regina viarum" the ancient road that connected Rome to Brundisium (Brindisi), passing through the Alta Murgia to the Ionian Gravine National Park. Here the territory changes, from the roundness of the Tavoliere to a surprising succession of ridges, sinkholes, hills, rugged karst cavities, escarpments and keregal pastures give a unique sensation of immense vastness. In spring, wild tulips, gladiolus, orchids, asphodels and yellow ferrules brush with colored spots the large green canvas of the endless wheat fields, interrupted here and there, by small buildings of rural architecture linked to the agricultural and pastoral tradition. This route crosses the Alta Murgia on the southern border, touching Gravina di Puglia and the countryside of Altamura towards Laterza.</p>		

A.4 | Ciclovia dell'Acquedotto Pugliese

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovia dell'Acquedotto Pugliese	AP.2 Murgia Murgia, Gravine Ioniche
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
11 km	9 m	www.bicitalia.org
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Ciclovia dell'Acquedotto Pugliese is a cycle-touristic route of about 500 km that follows the route of two historical pipelines of the aqueduct: the first one making the water arrive in Bari, and the Great Siphon Leccese, that from the terminal point of the first one reaches Santa Maria di Leuca. The apulian aqueduct describes a ridge of the innermost Puglia. From Castel del Monte to Villa Castelli you pedal almost without interruption constantly downhill for 15 km. It is a unique "narrative itinerary" that crosses three regions of Southern Italy (Campania, Basilicata and Puglia), connecting some of the most fascinating and still underrated places of the peninsula: Alta Irpinia, Vulture Melfese, Alta Murgia, Valle d'Itria, Terra d'Arneo and Salento hinterland. The Cycle Route of the apulian Aqueduct is not only a route that connects places of particular tourist and cultural interest but it is also a cycling experience allowing those who cross it to discover the variety and peculiarities of the apulian ecosystems.</p>		

A.5 | Ciclovía Romea-Francigena

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovía Romea-Francigena	AP.2 Murgia
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
23.5 km	249 m	https://en.eurovelo.com/ev5/italy
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Ciclovía Romea-Francigena is among the ancient routes in Europe, connecting Rome with northern Europe and the south mediterranean basin. This route touches Benevento and Melfi before coming to Puglia, in Gravina delle Puglie. It is the right moment to take a break, eat a "Calaridd" dish and a "Calzone di Gravina", a typical sweet street food. Then you will be ready to continue the trip through Matera and then the Gravine Ioniche.</p>		

A.6 | Ciclovía dell'Alta Murgia

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovía dell'Alta Murgia	AP.2 Murgia Murgia
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
9.2 km	450 m	https://ciclovie.parcoaltamurgia.it/percorsi/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The route "Tratturello Regio - Necropolis of S. Magno" runs along a stretch of the Canosa - Ruvo trail and runs partly on dirt road and partly on asphalt, inside the Fenicia woods. The woods dominated by downy oaks are located along the northern edge of the Alta Murgia National Park, on the slope facing the Adriatic Sea, between 300 m and 500 m above sea level. The route crosses a rural environment characterized by tree crops and arable land and is unpaved in the first part to become asphalted afterwards. Nearby of the Masseria Fiore the route is grafted onto the municipal road S. Magno to lead, passing near the Piscina Antica di San Magno, to the Necropolis of tumulus tombs of the late Bronze Age (VII - VI century BC).</p>		

A.7 | Ciclovía dei Borboni

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovía dei Borboni	AP.2 Murgia MURGIA, GRAVINE, TORRE, O-L
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
340 km	800 m	https://www.bikeitalia.it/ciclovía-dei-borboni-in-bici-da-napoli-a-bari/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The "Ciclovía dei Borboni" is a 340 km long itinerary for lovers of long bike rides and for those who let themselves be excited by the contact with nature and full immersion in non-anthropoc landscapes.</p> <p>It connects the cities of Bari and Naples in a coast to coast route from the Adriatic to the Tyrrhenian Sea.</p> <p>Given the numerous ups and downs on the route and the difference in height, it is not a recommended route for beginners; it is worth following the Matera variant, which starts from Bari and arrives in Matera after about 80 km, passing through Altamura, through oak and almond woods, the pastures of Alta Murgia and the varied landscapes of the Alta Murgia.</p>		

A.8 | Birdwatching in PNAM

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Birdwatching	Birdwatching in PNAM	AP.2 Murgia 13 municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>PNAM hosts a wide range of rapacious species, being a one of the few nesting colonies for some rapacious species such as: Grillai, Lanario, Capovaccaio, Averle, Occhione, Calandra, Calandrella, Monachella and Zigolo capinero. Legends says Friedrich II wrote his "De arte venandi cum avibus" in this land. The perfect place for birdwatching is the Rocca del Garagnone, from its high you can cover a wide land in a glance, as well as the straight dances of rapaces.</p>		

A.9 | Horseback-riding on Murgia

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Horseback-riding	Horseback-riding on Murgia	AP.2 Murgia 13 municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The horse tradition in this land is really strong, so that it gives the name to a horse: "Murgese Horse", also known as "bright black". Ride "bright black" is for expert riders, but you can also make an immersive experience riding a more meek one. So, you can take part in one of the several guided rides from Masserie spread in the Murgia, going through forests, steppe, carsic holes and wheat fields. For sure, you will never forget colors and smells over the trip.</p>		

A.10 | Grotta del Cavone

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Caving	Grotta del Cavone	AP.2 Murgia Spinazzola
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Here is one of the most suggestive natural sites in the National Park of Alta Murgia. Few kilometers away from Spinazzola, an unexpected color takes the scene: red. In this area are abandoned bauxite caves, testifying the tropical history of these lands millions years ago. So you can make a 10 km hike, passing through: a bauxite abandoned cave, the Acquetta forest and two carsic sites, taking a look into the ground. One is a hole into the Fossa Bardanica, a carsic depression from Daunia to Taranto, the second is Cave del Cavone, a vertical cave accessible only by experts.</p>		

A.11 | Pulo di Altamura

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Caving	Pulo di Altamura	AP.2 Murgia Altamura
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Among the wonderful scenery of the Murge plateau, near the city of bread, stands what, at first glance, looks like a deep chasm in the ground. In reality, this seemingly unimportant depression preserves in its depth a fascinating history and all to know. The Pulo di Altamura, this is its exact name, is in fact a sinkhole of karst origin, with a depth of 477 meters of altitude and 92 meters of depth. The Pulo is particularly appreciated because it is considered a place where, in addition to living in contact with nature, you can enjoy real excursions inside the crater. As soon as you arrive on the site you can observe the predominance of the Mediterranean scrub on the entire surface to the north, whose wall opens and hides inside with fascinating caves known respectively as Cave I and Cave II, which can be visited safely through caving paths.</p>		

A.12 | Climbing on Pulo di Altamura & Murgia Materana

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Climbing	Pulo di Altamura & Murgia Materana	AP.2 Murgia Altamura, Murgia Materana
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>For sure, climbing is not the main attraction of the National Park of Alta Murgia. Anyhow, the interest by amateur climbers raised in the last year, attracting both national and international climbers. The fascinating outdoor experience is the main reason. The main climbing cliff in Murgia is the Pulo di Altamura, it is among the few places worldwide where you can practice a reverse climbing: first you go down and then up, since it is a giant hole in the ground. Other interesting sites are in Murgia Materana, mainly at Jazzo Gattini through Eremi and first-cristian churches in the rock.</p>		

A. 13 | Culinary Activities – Of sea and land

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Of sea and land	AP.2 Murgia Altamura, Murgia Materana
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>A greedy path on peasant cuisine, with the strong flavors of Murgia and the sea in the villages where the tradition of fishing dates back to the Middle Ages. Absolute protagonists are turnip tops and wild vegetables, such as cardoons and lampascioni, onions with a bitter taste. Scattered with masserie, poste and jazzi, this territory is famous for its exquisite sheep and goat meat, but also for its wines, being one of the oldest wine districts, with the imposing Castel del Monte which gave its name to the DOC wines and the extra virgin DOP of the territory. It is a place for real gastronomists who love dairy products, such as mozzarella and burrata and desserts, from the confetti of Andria to the sighs of Bisceglie and also the sweets made with almonds and chocolate of Ruvo di Puglia, accompanied by the sweet Moscato di Trani. This is also the ideal place to move around looking for wineries, oil mills, dairies, where you can taste directly in the places of production, such as Corato, for example, where it is possible to taste the extra virgin of Coratina variety, the Apulian DOP canestrato, taralli and beers created with the Senatore Cappelli organic durum wheat. In the area of the National Park of Alta Murgia, you can also appreciate the cardoncello mushroom: in Poggiorsini, known for mushrooms and beer, and Gravina in Puglia - with the historic center overlooking the wonderful rock village - it is almost mandatory to taste the "Pallone" Slow Food Presidium Cheese Line. You can enjoy it with a slice of DOP bread from Altamura, a city that boasts the first Bread Museum in the region inside an ancient oven. From here you pass to Acquaviva delle Fonti, the village of onions. At Gioia del Colle, on the other hand, renowned for its primitive wine and for the production of fresh cheese with spun cheese, you can taste the legendary PDO mozzarella, nodini, trecce and stracciatelle; while in Santeramo in Colle, you can enjoy bread prepared with soft wheat flour and horse and donkey meat in the many city kitchens, prepared in rolls, chops, carpaccio, meatloaf with potatoes and roast onions or with raw seasonal vegetables.</p>		

2.2.3 Taranto & Gravine

NATURAL REGIONAL PARK TERRA DELLE GRAVINE [PILOT AREA N.3]

ph: Natalia Insalata; WildRatFilm; Verso Sud festival



Puglia is the region that more than all the others has benefited from the development of tourism.

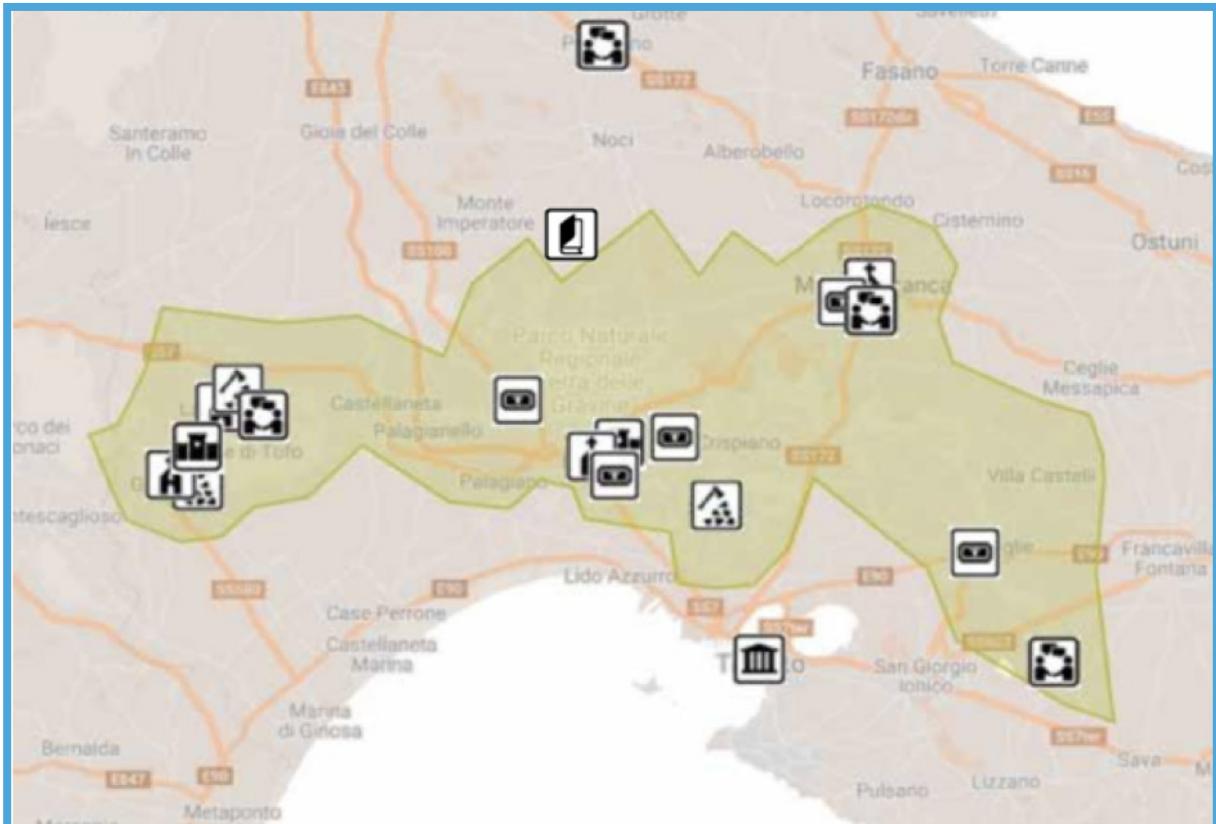
Even in the years of the great crisis of domestic tourism, from 2008 to 2014, it was the only region to show a positive sign. For the region there seems to be a real predilection, motivated primarily by the beauty of the coastline, and the quality of the sea water, with a set of corollaries that have now become an essential part of the product such as food and wine and the good willingness of residents to tourists. The territory of Taranto and Gravine offers in the various sectors of adventure and experiential tourism, many opportunities and they concern cultural tourism (think of the rocky habitat, with its churches and

villages dug on the sides of the ravines), naturalistic tourism, cycling tourism, equestrian tourism, caving (Laterza and Statte), agritourism, school tourism (in spring begin to attend the park also groups of students from abroad). But the park is not only tourism, it can also be scientific research, archaeology, rural sociology. It can, more simply, be rediscovery of the widespread knowledge of the peasant civilization and the economy of the uncultivated: the collection and marketing of capers, medicinal plants, the distillation of essential oils, the artisan production of myrtle, juniper and laurel liqueurs... small things, but capable of generating sustainable economy and contributing to the protection of the natural environment.

N.1 | Natural Regional Park of Ionic Gravine

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Park	Natural Regional Park of Ionic Gravine	AP.2 Murgia Altamura, Murgia Materana
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Natural Park "Terra delle Gravine" is one of the most important naturalistic areas of Europe, consisting of large karst canyons arranged in a fan around the Ionic Arch of the Gulf of Taranto. In the Park you can discover nature, fauna and traces of prehistoric life. The "Terra delle Gravine" Natural Park, established in 2005, is the largest Regional Natural Park in Puglia with a total area of about 25,000 hectares. It covers, in fact, the territory of 14 municipalities (Ginosa, Laterza, Castellaneta, Mottola, Massafra, Palagiano, Palagianello, Statte, Crispiano, Martina Franca, Montemesola, Grottaglie, San Marzano and Villa Castelli), from the Province of Taranto to the Province of Brindisi.</p> <p>The ravines, arranged in a north-south direction, degrading from the Murge plateau to the coastal plain of the Ionic Arch Tarantino, have their own peculiarities: there are small and shallow ravines rich in human settlements dating back to the Palaeolithic or ravines even more than two hundred meters deep, wild and rich in biodiversity. In addition to the very important naturalistic heritage, with the exclusive and characteristic presence of some rare animal and plant species, the ravines also offer a very rich and fascinating heritage of archaeological evidence.</p> <p>There is no other part of the world, a place with an equivalent amount of rock settlements and archaeological sites, with such important naturalistic assets and karst phenomena and similar richness of naturalistic biodiversity.</p>		

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
|  | Historical Sites and forts |  | Religious sites |
|  | Archeological Sites |  | Museums |
|  | Festival |  | Unesco heritage |
|  | Museum |  | Traditions |
|  | Art Craft | | |

TOP 5 Attractions

1. Dolmen of Statte
2. Medieval fountain of Mascheroni
3. Castello di Massafra
4. Festival della Valle d'Itria
5. Carnevale di Massafra

C.1 | Medieval fountain of Mascheroni

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic site	Medieval fountain of Mascheroni	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Laterza
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The city of Laterza, stands on a series of springs of drinking and freshwater, which initially gave life to a prosperous city perched on top of a ravine, then to a series of architectural wonders such as its medieval fountain, rich in architectural and decorative motifs dating back to 1500. The medieval fountain draws directly from the springs below, sources of life since prehistoric times, excellent for the supply of uncontaminated water. In Roman times an imposing aqueduct was also built, of which only a few arches still remain. A fundamental characteristic of the medieval fountain of Laterza are the peculiar masks of Renaissance origin whose mouths communicate directly with the springs, born as superstition to keep away the demons and protect the city. The faces are finely decorated, and are depicted with thick hair and thick moustaches bowed upwards.</p>		

C.2 | Archaeological Park of Santa Maria Dattoli

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological sites	Archaeological Park of Santa Maria Dattoli	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Ginosa
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	4	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Archaeological Park of Santa Maria Dattoli, almost 4 kilometers from the center of Ginosa, is one of the most important archaeological sites in the territory of Ginosino, which emerged during the excavations carried out between 2006 and 2008. In the rural district of Madonna Dattoli there is an underground aqueduct of the Roman age located a few meters from the Benedictine church of Santa Maria Dattoli. From historical sources we learn that the virgins were led in procession to implore the grace of rain. In this way, a strong link is created between the nearby Benedictine church and the water source. Moreover, we have news of the existence of the Dattoli baths where the vestiges of baths used to cure many illnesses can still be seen.</p> <p>There are two main parts of the park and in particular the main one is located around the homonymous medieval church, home of Benedictine monks, who in the twelfth century painted a wonderful fresco depicting Christ Pantocrator. Next to the place of worship are the apse of the early Christian church, dating back to the 4th century AD, and the antiquarium, which preserves the finds discovered during the excavations.</p>		

C.3 | Dolmen of Statte

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological sites	Dolmen of Statte	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Statte
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Dolmen is an imposing prehistoric tomb, built with large boulders, resting or fixed in the ground in a vertical manner that support a large horizontal slab. They are called megalithic monuments, and are widespread in a vast area covering central-western Europe. In Statte two important Neolithic Dolmens dating back to the Middle Bronze Age (2nd millennium BC) have been discovered. The dolmen of San Giovanni is the second most important in Puglia after the one of Bisceglie. Here two important Neolithic Dolmens dating back to the Middle Bronze Age have been discovered.</p> <p>The biggest saying of S.Giovanni (from the name of the homonym masseria that rises nearby) was excavated in 1884 by prof. Luigi Viola.</p> <p>The biggest one rises near the masseria Leucaspide called "Dolmen di S.Giovanni della Masseria" and rises in the undergrowth at a short distance from the ravine. It consists of four large slabs placed in the ground and covered by a large slab three meters wide by two and 50 centimeters thick.</p>		

C.4 | Castle of Massafra

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Massafra	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Massafra
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Castle of Massafra is located in the historic center, in the locality of Lo Pizzo and overlooks the left spur of the Gravina di San Marco. Its structure and architectural motifs are similar to other castles in Puglia, with four towers arranged in a quadrilateral shape and bound by walls. Probably built in the Justinian age, it underwent important architectural interventions between the Lombard and Byzantine domination that gave it its present appearance. Currently the rooms of the visited castle are used as the "Civic Library" and the "Civic historical-archaeological museum of the civilization of oil and wine".</p>		

C.5 | Castle of Ginosa

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Ginosa	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Ginosa
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Castle of Ginosa, located above a walled plateau, dominates three sides of the ravine and is connected to the main street of the village by a four-arched bridge, which rises over a wide and deep moat. The oldest part is the tower, located to the north-east; the original Norman Castrum of the end of '400, deviating from the medieval schemes was expanded and transformed into a stately palace, then renovated in '700 by the Spinola-Alcanices de Los Balbases, feudal lords who succeeded the Doria. The Castle was built around 1080 by Robert Guiscard to defend itself from possible Saracen incursions. It, therefore, constituted the defense of the country and was therefore the residence of the count, and the same coat of arms of the Castle represented the coat of arms of the country.</p>		

C.6 | Castle of Stella Caracciolo

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Stella Caracciolo	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Palagianello
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	4	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The castle stands on the highest point of the village, in a strategic position to control the surrounding area. From its top you can observe the territory at 360 degrees to the mountains of Sila (Calabria). The construction probably began in the first half of the sixteenth century by the family Domini Roberti for the defense of the house of Palagianello, finished in the eighteenth century under the rule of the Caracciolo.</p> <p>The castle, which has a quadrangular plan with a large central courtyard, is equipped with four towers at the outer corners and has all the characteristics of the fortified defensive structures of the sixteenth century. The current entrance to the castle is located on the south side. In the lower floor there are the warehouses and stables while in the upper floor there are the rooms that were used as the feudal lord's dwelling.</p>		

C.7 | National Archaeological Museum of Taranto MARTA

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	National Archaeological Museum of Taranto MARTA	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Taranto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Established in 1887 in the ancient Convent of the Alcantarini Friars, the National Archaeological Museum of Taranto (MARTA) is one of the most important in the world for the collections of the Magna Graecia period. From its origins to the present day, the structure and the museum route have undergone restoration and remodeling, up to the last exhibition 2007-2016.</p> <p>The exhibition is on two floors and covers a chronological period from prehistoric times to the early Middle Ages. You can admire Greek, Roman and Apulian collections, the result of over a century of archaeological research in Puglia. The Hellenistic-Roman period refers to the famous "Ori di Taranto": jewels witnessing the very refined goldsmith's craftsmanship of Taranto in the Hellenistic age that made the MARTA famous in the world. Also famous is the collection of polychrome terracotta statuettes and figurative ceramic vases found in the Greek-Roman necropolis.</p>		

C.8 | Majolica Museum of Laterza - MUMA

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Majolica Museum of Laterza - MUMA	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Laterza
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Located in the sixteenth-century palace Marchesale di Laterza, the majolica museum houses precious treasures of the memory of the artisan and ceramic art of Laertina, which have been handed down for centuries.</p> <p>The Majolica Museum of Laterza - MUMA - inaugurated in 2015, houses a conspicuous corpus of ancient and precious majolica from the Laertina ceramics factory, stubbornly collected over twenty years by an enlightened businessman from Bari, Riccardo Tondolo. The peculiarity of Laterza's majolica is the Turkish monochrome on a white background and a decorative apparatus animated by mythological characters, ladies and knights, battles and hunting scenes, fairytale landscapes populated by grotesque animals, all framed by embroideries of daisies, shoots and vegetal giralis.</p>		

C.9 | Mother Church of the Madonna del SS. Rosario

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Mother Church of the Madonna del SS. Rosario	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Ginosa
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Mother Church of Ginosa was founded between 1496 and 1515 on a site already consecrated because of the small church and a cemetery. With the election of the Virgin of the Holy Rosary as Patroness of Ginosa, the church assumed the present title of the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. The architectural-compositional layout (gabled façade, cruciform pillars, pointed arches) dates back to the end of the 15th - beginning of the 16th century, during the barony of Grisone Sanseverino. The architectural line, both inside and outside the Church, is typical of the sixteenth century, which harmonizes the Gothic style, dominant in France, with the Renaissance style that had established itself in Puglia at that time. In the Chapel of the Rosary was placed a canvas of the Virgin holding the Child in her right arm and the crown of the Rosary in her left hand. This canvas is very interesting both from an artistic point of view, for the beauty and precision of its design and colors, and religious because Our Lady of the Rosary is the Patroness of the city of Ginosa.</p>		

C.10 | Sanctuary of Mater Domini

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Sanctuary of Mater Domini	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Laterza
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Mater Domini Sanctuary of Laterza is the fulcrum of Laertine spirituality and was built between 1736 and 1753 near the cave of Santa Domenica, where the miracle of the apparition to the shepherd Paolo Tria della Vergine took place in 1650. The cult of the Materdomini probably, according to reliable sources, dates back to the 14th century, while the sanctuary was built next to the ancient cave, right in the heart of the village. The Sanctuary has a Latin cross plan, surmounted by a sail vault divided into three parts. Each of these rests on false columns that end with a capital surmounted by a series of frames.</p> <p>On the walls of each small vault, you can see windows with polychrome stained-glass windows, and the apse, surmounted by a semi-dome decorated with eight series of octagons.</p>		

C.11 | Sanctuary of the Madonna della Scala

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Sanctuary of the Madonna della Scala	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Massafra
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Gravina della Madonna della Scala, located in the municipality of Massafra, is a slit in the ground 4 km long, about 40 m deep and from 30 to 50 m wide. Inside, in a naturalistic environment rich in caves, aromas and mystery, stands the Sanctuary of Madonna della Scala and over 200 houses of the original Neolithic village. The Sanctuary, which is accessed by descending 125 steps, gives its name to the Gravina, which touches the city from the south-west. Precisely because of the rich spontaneous vegetation that covers the entire bed of the ancient river, the Gravina is called "Valley of Roses". There are, in fact, many varieties of plants, some very rare and with medicinal properties. Inside, there is a fresco portraying the Madonna and Child between two deer (called 'Madonna della cerva'), linked to the legend of the foundation of this place of worship.</p>		

C.12 | Basilica of San Martino

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Basilica of San Martino	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Martina Franca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Basilica of San Martino, is the monument that most represents the explosion of Rococò art in Martina Franca in 1700, a century of great cultural vivacity for the city. The inside is characterized from an only aisle to Latin cross that introduces along the sides noble chapels with altars and works of art of merit. In the niche, located on the scenic high altar, shines the golden statue of the patron saint, St. Martin of Tours. After an earthquake in 1743 that affected the whole of Otranto, reconstruction work began in 1776. The new church of San Martino marked the affirmation of the rocaille taste in the town. The building ,37 meters high, has a slightly undulating facade among the most imposing in southern Puglia.</p>		

C.13 | Festival della Valle d'Itria

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Festival della Valle d'Itria	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Martina Franca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Festival della Valle d'Itria di Martina Franca was born in 1975 on the initiative of a group of music lovers led by Alessandro Caroli, first president of the Festival, with the decisive support of Franco Punzi, then Mayor of Martina Franca, and Paolo Grassi, at the time superintendent of the Teatro alla Scala. Since its inception, the Festival has been characterized by the courageous re-proposal of an underestimated repertoire and performance practice: the staging of works by Rossini and Bellini have contributed to its success.</p> <p>Since 1980, the festival has accentuated its original identity of revaluation of the Bel canto repertoire (from Monteverdi to Proto Romanticism) and the Neapolitan School of Music in which the great protagonists were the apulian composers, without neglecting the great European repertoire. The Festival's productions stand out for the authenticity of the lyrics (often performed in full version) and the respect of the vocal types, faithful to the original scores and interpretations.</p> <p>The Festival has been awarded nine times the coveted Abbiati Prize by the National Association of Music Critics.</p>		

C.14 | Carsica Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Carsica Festival	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Park's municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Carsica Festival was born from the idea of experimenting a multidisciplinary artistic content in the land of Gravine. "Carsica- Festival of sounds among the rocks of the Parco delle Gravine" is a review of events shared between the municipalities of Laterza, Grottaglie and Ginosa focused on quality music, nature, interaction and community, and oriented to strengthen the attractiveness and usability of the territories also proposing excursions, exhibitions, installations and tastings.</p> <p>15 appointments, curated by Bass Culture, almost all with free admission scheduled between Laterza, Grottaglie and Ginosa. Carsica - The festival also promotes the theater dedicated to young audiences, boasting co-productions with the Orchestra Lucana Foundation.</p>		

C.15 | Cinzella Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Cinzella Festival	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Grottaglie
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Cultural Association AFO6 – Converters of ideas under the patronage of APULIA film Commission, has produced for the fourth time this year, the CINZELLA FESTIVAL. The festival is dedicated to music and cinema, and took place from August 12 to 15 in Grottaglie, in the enchanting and unique setting of the Cave di Fantiano, for the artistic direction of actor Michele Riondino.</p> <p>The festival dedicates as every year a part to "images", and a part to live concerts. Talk, screenings, music, exceptional guests.</p>		

C.16 | Vicoli Corti

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Vicoli Corti	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Massafra
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Now in its thirteenth edition, Vicoli Corti continues to evolve, while remaining faithful to its own identity. A review that will accompany the public from August 21 to 25 between cinema, theater for children, music and meetings.</p> <p>The periphery as a space, with its architectural and human physicality. The periphery as a place of the soul and story. But, also, the periphery of expressive language, with the most interesting realities of emerging Italian cinematography, are the topics of the festival this year.</p>		

C.17 | Mottola Guitar Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Mottola Guitar Festival	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Mottola
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The 26th International Guitar Festival – City of Mottola (Italy), founded in 1992, is organized by the “Ass. M. & C. Accademia della Chitarra”. The peculiarity of the festival is its itinerant format embracing the surrounding cities in Mottola (Massafra – Palagiano – Castellaneta) and also cities in different provincial administrations (Bari, Matera, Santeramo, Noci etc).</p> <p>In general, the Festival lasts for ten days, with an average of 70 musicians participating. The festival is held at historical venues, like Church S. S. Immacolata (Convento), Evangelical Baptist Church, and the Auditoriums of some High School</p>		

C.18 | Carnival of Massafra

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Traditions	Carnival of Massafra	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Massafra
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Carnival of Massafra represents the most important cultural event of the year as well as the most representative tourist event of the city in the territory, both provincial and regional, attracting many tourists and spectators.</p> <p>Masking, madness and tradition are the 3 key elements at the center of the event. A big party "in the open air", in which, unlike the other Carnivals, citizens and outsiders are actively involved, participating in the animation and fun, stimulated by the choreography and scenery of the floats and allegorical / masked groups that parade along the main street of the city. The highlight of the event is the spectacular parade of the Giants of papier-mâché, majestic floats made of clay, plaster casts, newspaper and glue (water and flour) thanks to the skill of the papier-mâché workers.</p>		

C.19 | Transhumance of Laterza

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Transhumance of Laterza	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Laterza
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	3	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The transhumance is one of the traditions of Laterza: the current coat of arms of the municipality of Laterza presents the sheep, the specimen of animal that demonstrates the pastoral origin of the municipality of Taranto. Transhumance is an ancient practice and now reduced to a few dozen shepherds who, with great sacrifices and almost perpetuating an ancestral rite, make the long journeys that separate the mountains of Basilicata from the mythical Murgia plateaus.</p> <p>This migration needed wide grassy roads that could provide food for the cattle during the long journey that lasted on average 2 weeks. Therefore the sheep-tracks were at one time roads and pastures, places of settlement for factories, churches, taverns and finally inhabited centers.</p>		

C.20 | Bonfires of San Giuseppe

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Festivals	Bonfires San Giuseppe	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine San Marzano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>March 18 and 19 are feast days in the small town of San Marzano: the patron saint St. Joseph is celebrated. Since the end of 1800 is renewed every year a festival rich in tradition and history. In the morning on St. Joseph's Eve, bread is blessed in the central church. On March 18, along the street that cuts through the whole city, the procession of the faggots winds: in honor of the Saint, among songs, sounds and dances to the rhythm of the characteristic pizzica, about forty wagons loaded with faggots and olive tree trunks will parade through the village to bring the wood that will burn in a big bonfire, the zjarre madhe, "the big fire" according to the arbereshe language.</p> <p>The 19th is the patronal feast. In the morning are blessed the "mattre", laid tables placed in the center of the square. Typical local dishes and dishes offered to visitors, tourists and those who are curious about the feast.</p>		

C.21 | Quarantene di Martina Franca

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Quarantene di Martina Franca	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Martina Franca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Lent is the period of deprivation opposed to the abundance and excesses of the Carnival that has just ended: forty days of abstinence from fatty foods, meat, eggs, milk and derivatives to celebrate the crossing of the desert that Jesus managed to accomplish in forty days, feeding only on herbs. These prohibitions were even observed by the civil authorities who, for example, banned the sale of meat, imposing the closure of butcher shops. Popular culture assimilated, in an original way, these precepts giving life to the Lenten puppet, better known as Quarantine, which represented, in the form of an old woman, the forty days of fasting. Tradition is always alive in Martina Franca, during which the puppet is accompanied by the symbols of the privations of Lent.</p>		

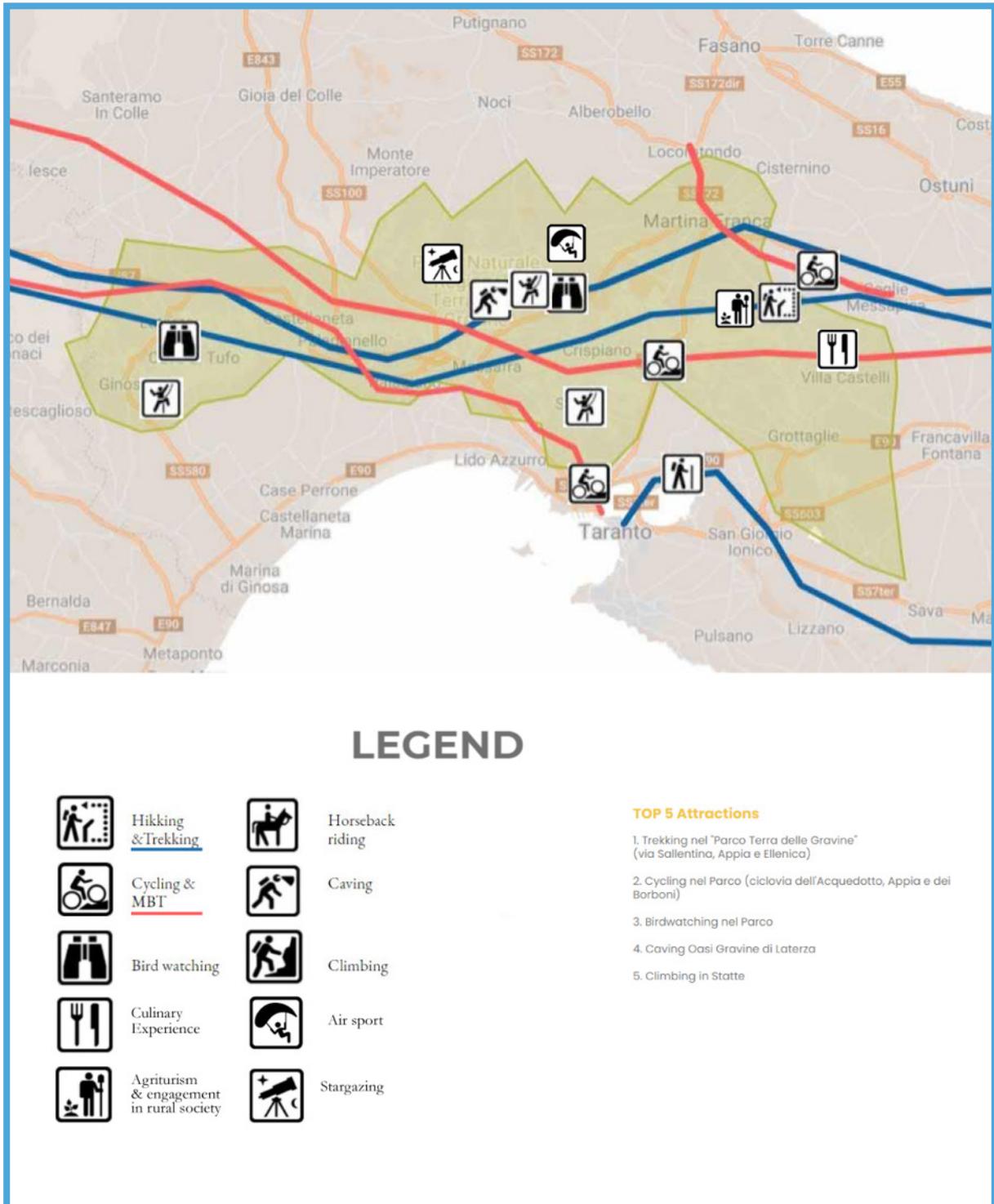
C.22 | System of cave churches

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	System of cave churches	AP.1/AP.2/AP.3/AP.5
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Among enchanting villages and breathtaking landscapes, Romanesque cathedrals and majestic castles of Frederick II stand out against the sky. Ancient rock churches and suggestive places of worship are hidden among the rocks. Coastal towers, built over the centuries by Normans, Swabians and Angevins, dominate the sea, while the Baroque churches of Lecce and Martina Franca fascinate with their stone lace. A meditative and amazing journey, which begins by reading this experience, to get ideas and advice and continues directly in Puglia to fill up with light that warms the soul, with crystal clear water that refreshes the body and with slowness that allows you to fully enjoy the panorama. A world of bare rock, with itineraries that start from the Abbey of Pulsano and its 24 overhanging hermitages, and then move on to the incredible rock crypts from San Michele di Gravina in Puglia to Lama d'Antico in Fasano, to the ravines of Bari, Taranto and Salento. Men of faith, peasants and shepherds prayed in these caves transformed, around the year one thousand, in frescoed chapels that still retain the charm of the past.</p>		

C.23 | Ceramic of Grottaglie

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Art Craft	Ceramic of Grottaglie	AP.3 Taranto & Gravine Grottaglie
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Ceramics of Grottaglie have a long tradition in this land and had a key role thanks to the red argil caves in this land. There is a dedicated Museum in Grottaglie where you can walk its history and admire the artistic masterpieces of this art. It is also possible to take home one of these ceramic handcrafted masterpieces from local craftsmen and craftsmen, as for the famous Pruni, vases or heads.</p>		

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES MAP



A.1 | Trekking through the gorges of the Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Hiking and Trekking	Trekking through the gorges of the Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Park's municipalities
tot. Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
via Appia -62 km Via Francigena Sallentina-186,5 km via Ellenica-cammino materano - 210 km	-	https://trekking-puglia.blogspot.com/p/i-cammini-pugliesi.html#Francigene https://camminomaterano.it/via-ellenica
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The territory of the province of Taranto and Gravine is crossed by several historical paths: the Hellenic way (the Materano way that leads to Matera starting from Brindisi), the Appia way (that connected Rome to Brindisi, passing through Taranto) and the Via Francigena - Via Sallentina (from Taranto to Santa Maria di Leuca).</p> <p>The traveller slowly enters the land of Gravine, one of the most important naturalistic areas of Europe, consisting of imposing karst canyons arranged in a fan around the Ionic arch of the Gulf of Taranto. Spectacular overhangs and high vertical cliffs that, illuminated by the setting sun, acquire the tones of red. Walking for a few kilometers inside a small ravine, along a path that runs in the riverbed between the thick vegetation typical of the Mediterranean maquis and the traces of rocky settlements. The path continues intercepting an ancient farm of 1400 surrounded by gardens. You then descend from the hills on an ancient sheep-track that leads to an area rich in rocky settlements.</p>		

A.2 | Cycling in the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling	Cycling in the Natural Regional Park of Terra delle Gravine of Taranto	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Park's municipalities
tot. Length	Total ascent	Link to the route map
ciclovia dell'Acquedotto - 500 km	-	https://www.puglia.com/cicloturismo-puglia-sei-ciclovie/
ciclovia dei Borboni - 340 km		
ciclovia Francigena -1.040 km		
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>A wide choice of bike paths for cycling lovers in the land of the Ionian Gravine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - La Ciclovia dell'Acqua is a path built on the walkways of Canale Principale dell'Acquedotto Pugliese, the centenary tunnel that carries the water of the river Sele from Irpinia to Puglia. It is a route completely free of traffic and completely immersed in the quiet and luxuriant nature. - At a distance of 220 km from its entrance in the Apulian territory, the Francigena cycleway leads to the Mottola territory, which opens immediately afterwards on ravines with suggestive traces of rock settlements. Here we find some of the most spectacular ravines of the Ionic arch, the Gravina di Petruscio, a deep fluvial incision where you can admire suggestive rocky settlements dug on the sides of the rock. Driving another 35km the Francigena cycleway crosses the city of Taranto taking us to the Piccolo sea, with the oasis la Vela, naturalistic park of the city of Taranto. -The Borboni cycleway connects Naples with Bari, skirting provincial and municipal roads. In this route you meet the Locone dam of relevant naturalistic value, with evocative colors at dusk. Around it there are pinewoods of anthropic origin, alternating with grassy low shrubs and Mediterranean scrub formations. Continuing on the same cycle route we discover the town of Minervino, outpost of the Murgia on the eastern side, also called "the balcony of the Murge." 		

A.3 | Birdwatching in the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Birdwatching	Birdwatching in the the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Park's municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Gravine Park is ideal for birdwatching, and represents a nesting area for several species of birds of conservation interest, in particular birds of prey threatened with extinction at European level. Emblem of the protected area is the capovaccaio, the smallest European vulture, sacred to the ancient Egyptians, which finds in the rocky walls of the ravines an ideal nesting place. The species, very rare in the whole South of Italy, hibernates in Mali and returns every year to this territory to complete the nesting. The "capovaccaio" is so called because of the habit of following the herds of grazing cows. Other birds of prey are the lanner, a large hawk, similar to the pilgrim, the nibbio reale recognizable by the forked tail and white winged windows, il nibbio bruno, buzzard, kestrel and sparrowhawk, the kestrel falcon and the lanner typical autochthonous species.</p>		

A.4 | Caving in the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Caving	Caving in the the Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Park's municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Gravina di Puglia are deep abysses and represent a book on stone all to be deciphered. The canyons of Puglia are masterpieces where ecology, geology, archaeology and history are mixed in a masterful unicum. In these places you can admire gorges that reach up to 200m, worked by the thousand-year-old action of winds and disappeared streams that went to the sea. You can discover ancient karst furrows that creep for hundreds of meters, overhangs, valleys, valleys, caves, primeval Mediterranean forest, wildlife. You can visit the interior of these spectacular "gorges", observing massive cliffs of limestone cliffs overhanging, and differences in height of scenic impact that in some places exceed 50 m. The territory of the "ravines" originated when the platform Carbonatica Apula, starting to rise during the Pleistocene, went through erosive phenomena.</p>		

A.5 | Climbing along the Ionic gorges

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Climbing	Climbing along the Ionic gorges	AP.3 Taranto e Gravine Park's municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>One of the most spectacular sporting activities that can be practiced in the ravines is undoubtedly Free Climbing. It is also possible to practice its less spectacular but certainly more technical variant, Bouldering.</p> <p>Free climbing is an activity carried out in full respect of nature; silence, concentration and ""contact with the rock"" are the key elements of this sport, unfortunately by many accused of being harmful to the environment where it is practiced. In some ravines of the Terra delle Gravine Park there is the presence of nests of birds of prey, therefore, they are forbidden to climb from April 1 to July 30 to protect the reproductive cycle of these precious and beautiful birds.</p> <p>There are many cliffs scattered in the Taranto area of the Gravine the most famous: the Oasi Gravina di Laterza, where the Laterza Climbing Festival is organized, the ravine of Ginosa, and the cliff of Statte, which offers a breathtaking scenery for those who practice free climbing, an integral part of the ravines of Puglia and is a destination of primary importance for French, German, Austrian and Swiss climbers. It should also be said that in the last twenty years, a group of passionate climbers from Taranto have equipped over 100 routes divided into various sectors along the bed of the ravine.</p>		

A.6 | Culinary Activities – Colors of autumn

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Of sea and land	AP.3 Taranto & Gravine Grottaglie
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>In Terra delle Gravine, among frescoed caves and lush canyons, we find the city of Laterza, famous for the ceramic and the fragrant bread, of great size and slightly acidulous taste, which can be combined with a harmonious oil DOP Terre Tarantine. A few kilometers further, in Palagianò, the town of Clementine IGP, you can taste the juicy citrus fruits.</p> <p>Then proceed to Crispiano to taste the gnummredde, rolls with lamb entrails, in the stove ready and ends the journey to Taranto, homeland of an ancient gastronomic culture of sea, that it has like protagonist the tarantino mussel, exquisite in thousand preparations, impepata, with the spaghetti, in the tiella of rice potatoes and mussels and then oysters and seafood.</p> <p>In combination with the white and rose wines of the DOC Colline Joniche Tarantine or fresh and summer beers produced in San Giorgio Ionico.</p>		

2.2.3 Torre Guaceto

WWF OASIS OF TORRE GUACETO
[PILOT AREA N.4]

ph. Leonardo D'Angelo, Giorgia Esposito



WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto is a 12 Km² diamond on the Adriatic coast of Puglia, just a few Km north of Brindisi. This is a must stop 2-3 day stop in your apulian adventure trip, having the opportunity to experience an incredible terrestrial and marine biodiversity, a 3.000 historic culture and a wide range of adventure activities: from birdwatching to sea sports, from horseback-riding to hiking, trekking and cycling. But let's go with order.

The Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto extends for about 1.200 hectares of both terrestrial and marine reserves. The terrestrial part offers a concentrated biodiversity: the lush Mediterranean bush, forest of holm oaks and the centuries-old cuddly juniper. Here is also an organic production ranging from the vineyard, to the olive groves of extra virgin olive oil Oro del Parco, up to the precious rows of

tomato Fiaschetto. Then is a transition wet zone to the marine reserve, where you can enjoy the beaches and a marshy area, which would be perfect for a relaxing bird watching activity. The marine reserve covers also five little islands close to the coast, it is the no missable place if you love snorkeling or diving. In recent years the reserve launched a sustainable fishing program involving local SMEs, showing again as a protected area can be a living place, also for anthropological activities. A fascinating Aragonese tower, an archeological site and a very technological visit center complete this incredible site, a diamond on the Apulian adriatic coast, a reference ecosystem model for sustainable tourism.

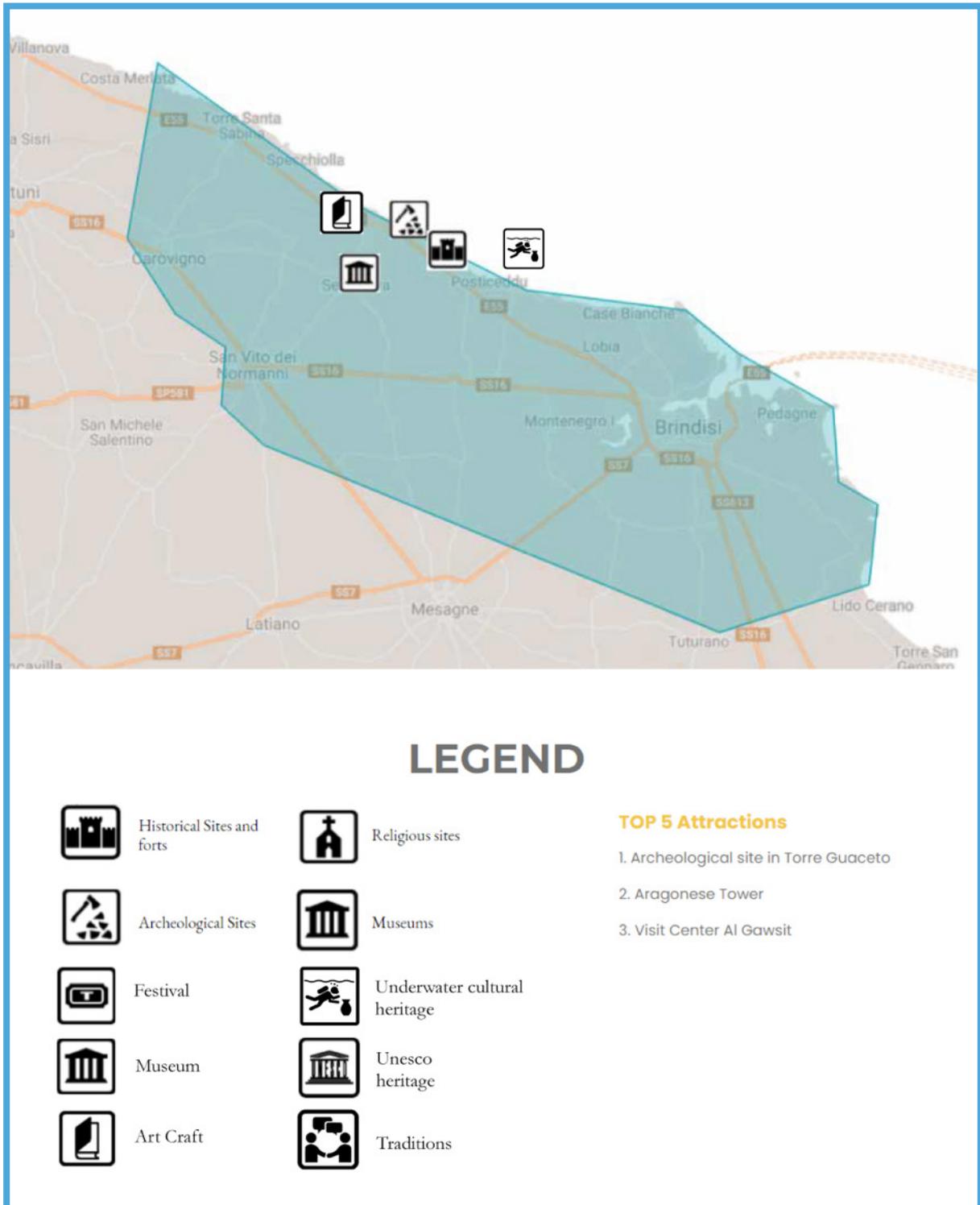
NATURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



N.1 | Torre Guaceto WWF Oasis

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Reserve	Torre Guaceto WWF Oasis	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The state nature reserve Torre Guaceto is a protected natural area located on the Adriatic coast of the upper Salento, a few kilometers from the centers of Carovigno and San Vito dei Normanni. The State Nature Reserve of Torre Guaceto extends for about 1,200 hectares including the marine protected area and a terrestrial reserve. The first has a high level of biodiversity, numerous fish and plant species such as Poseidonia. Among the rocks nests a small and special bird: the little brother. The terrestrial reserve occupies a total area of 45 hectares. Here is the impenetrable forest of holm oaks and the centuries-old cuddly juniper. Walking towards the coast, you come across the wetland that occupies a total area of 110 hectares and that, in the clear water, as well as the Mediterranean scrub, is home to a large number of animal species.</p> <p>The reserve of Torre Guaceto has invested in organic production ranging from the vineyard, to the olive groves of extra virgin olive oil Oro del Parco, up to the precious rows of tomato Fiaschetto. At sea, on the other hand, sustainable fishing is practiced, the activity authorized only with the use of wide-meshed nets, a technique that allows to avoid the capture of young fish. The strict protection of these waters has allowed the repopulation of the entire Salento coast.</p>		

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



C.1 | Archaeological site in Torre Guaceto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological Sites	Archaeological site in Torre Guaceto	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>A huge village by the sea, with a sandy tongue behind it and ponds fed by a river flowing directly into it. Today the sandy tongue is the seabed, and the small promontories on which extended the huts of a population made up mainly of fishermen and shellfish gatherers, but also hunters who went into the big oak forests of the immediate hinterland. The fortified settlements of the Bronze Age (II B.C.) of the Reserve are today located on the promontory of Torre Guaceto and the two Scogli di Apani, which have become rocky islands. They are villages (of the Old Bronze Age, XIX century BC and the Middle Bronze-XVIII-XV century BC) defended by large fortification walls and consisting of huts made of wooden and vegetable elements and whose walls were covered with clay plaster, inside there were often ground hearths and clay stoves. Craftsmanship was one of the main activities of the time and led to the realization of ceramic containers, weapons, tools and ornaments in bronze, and numerous other objects made of clay, flint and hard stones, bone, horn, ivory, shells and amber.</p>		

C.2 | Aragonese Tower

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Historic sites and forts	Aragonese Tower	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	4	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The tower of Guaceto, symbol of the Reserve, is the largest of the so-called "square-based viceroyalty towers" that were built in Terra d'Otranto during the reign of Charles V following the edict of 1563 of the Viceroy of Naples, Duke of Alcalá, to defend the coast from the raids of the Turks.</p> <p>The tower is placed near the southern end of the homonymous promontory of Guaceto at about 5 meters above sea level; it is a strategic position that allows to control the harbour roadstead sheltered from the northern winds and in which the Royal Canal and the spring waters that still feed the ponds of the wide marshy area behind it flow. From this position the tower was able to communicate visually not only with the nearest coastal posts, namely Torre Santa Sabina (further north) and Torre Testa (further south), but also with Torre Regina Giovanna, Masseria Baccatani and the Castle of Serranova in the immediate hinterland.</p>		

C.3 | Visit Center Al Gawsit

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Visit Center Al Gawsit	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Located in the village of Serranova, Carovigno, a handful of kilometers from the protected area, the Al Gawsit Visitor Center was born, renovated and opened to the public in 2016. Here have been realized installations with cultural and historical-archaeological value, interactive corners through which visitors can learn and deepen the history of the reserve and its peculiarities, as well as the activities that can be carried out within it. Thanks to the portals made available to users, the public can watch videos and a 3D reconstruction of the village of Torre Guaceto in the Bronze Age, as well as visit an entire area where there are exhibits dating back to the same historical period and found in the area of the reserve through archaeological excavations. Thanks to the 3D technology, the visitor can have an immersive experience, through the reconstructions inherent to popular culture, culinary and musical traditions, which are now disappearing.</p> <p>In addition, there is a space completely dedicated to dioramas on the underwater marine environment of the Marine Protected Area, and touch panels that provide the user with both generic information about the reserve and specific information about the various environments of the protected area.</p>		

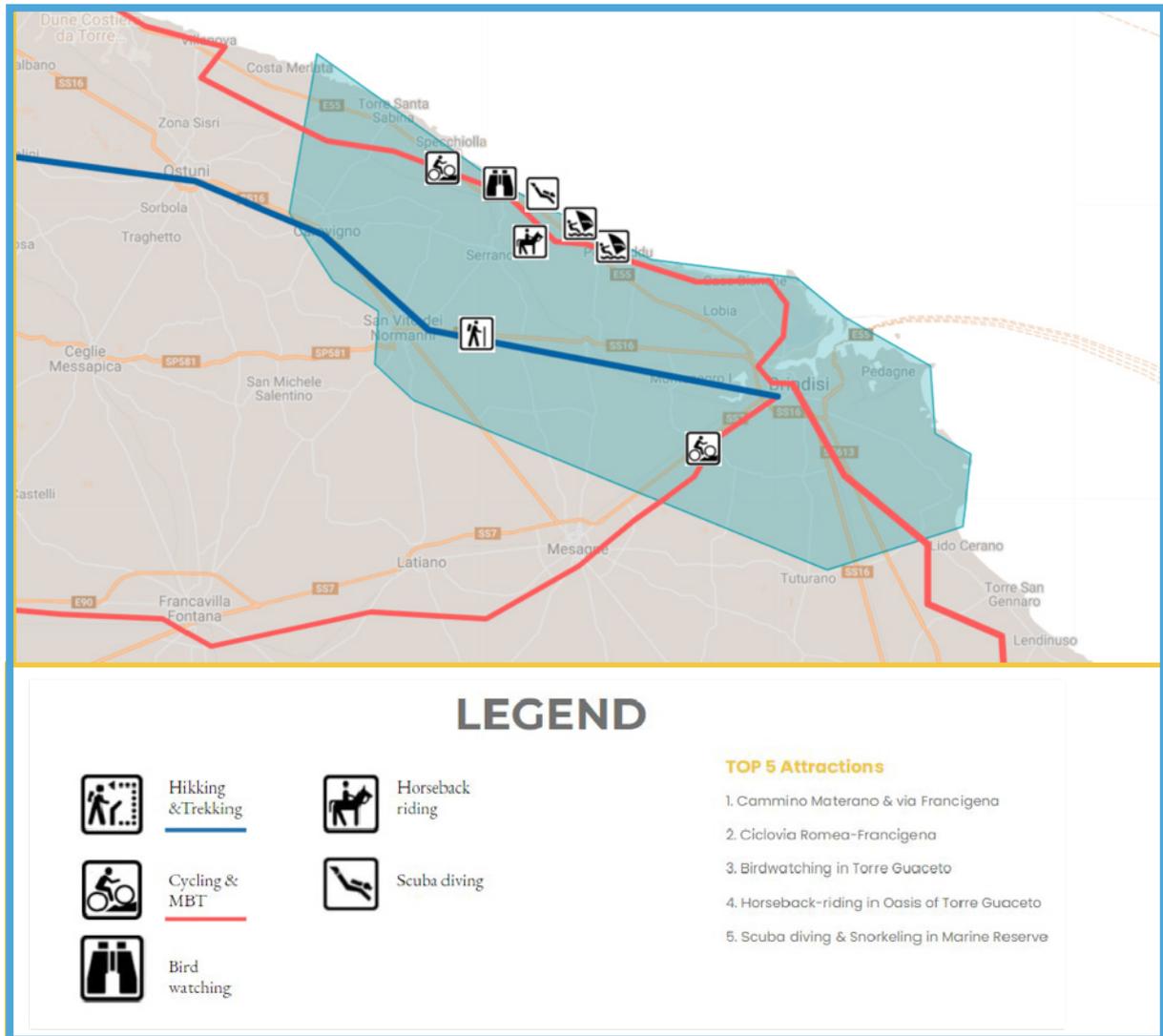
C.4 | Torre Santa Sabina

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - archeological site & underwater cultural heritage	Torre Santa Sabina	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The archaeological remains on the coast and on the seabed of Torre Santa Sabina tell the long history of the landing, from prehistory to the modern age. The bay was a stopover in coastal shipping routes for a long time, thanks to the shelter offered to sailors. So, on the seabed of the inlet there are the remains of loads and hulls of at least five wrecks, dating back between the end of the 6th century B.C. and the late 16th century AD. These are the wooden remains of boats pulled ashore on the ancient beach and the loads overturned on the seabed by ships broken on its submerged cliffs, which became traps during sea storms. There are also squared stone blocks referable to the ancient quarry carved into the rocky bank, while thousands of post-holes of a late Bronze Age settlement along the low cliffs of the bay are still clearly visible. This huge submerged heritage has fascinated the pioneers of underwater archeology in Italy since the 1960s. So its correct valorization could offer a precious opportunity for social and economic development through a sustainable and eco-friendly cultural and touristic approach.</p>		

C.5 | Textile tradition of Carovigno

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Art Craft	Textile tradition of Carovigno	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The ancient textile tradition has a solid living root in Carovigno, where the sapient hands of young and old women still weave and web handcrafted fabrics. The prestigious fabrics and drapery have various uses and are inspiring various female startups in this field, which are becoming a reference point for young entrepreneurs. The initiator of this textile female entrepreneurship tradition is Elisabetta Schlippenbach, a countess with austriac origin, who built a weaving factory in the Aragonese castle of Carovigno in 1926. Her goal was to leverage the ancient weaving knowledge of women for producing high quality woolen fabrics.</p>		

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES MAP



A.1 | Via Traiana

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Hiking & Trekking	Via Traiana	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
tot. Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
291.9 km	-	https://www.viefrancigenedelsud.it/it/resource/statictrack/appia-traiana/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Walking along the paths of the Via Traiana you enter the Adriatic coastal strip that rises in correspondence with Polignano a Mare overlooking the sea and perforated by evocative caves, which offers an exceptional view with a continuum prospect of buildings over the sea. Behind them is an intricate web of picturesque streets between houses, whitewashed courtyards, terraces overlooking the sea. The environmental wonder of this coastline are the vast areas covered by olive groves, oaks and carob trees that extend for about 40 km between the territories of Bari and Brindisi, particularly the municipalities of Monopoli, Egnazia, Carovigno, Ostuni, San Vito dei Normanni and the uncontaminated nature of the large marine protected area of Torre Guaceto. The coast drops again in the direction of Monopoli, center of the coastal Murgia, which occupies 13 km of coastline where 25 beautiful coves and wide expanses of fine sand follow one another, until it expands into the sandy beaches of Torre Canne that precede the variegated bay of Ostuni.</p>		

A.2 | Cammino Materano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Hiking & Trekking	Cammino Materano	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
tot. Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
150 km	-	https://camminomaterano.it/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	1	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Materan Path in this area, through the municipalities of Serranova, Carovigno, Ostuni, extends into the natural oasis of Torre Guaceto, allowing you to enjoy the wonderful coastal areas rich in biodiversity as well as the architectural-artistic evidence of those inland. Through a path of eucalyptus trees and low flowering Mediterranean maquis, the pilgrim after only ten kilometers begins to glimpse the city of Carovigno, with its characteristic old town dominated by the Dentice di Frasso Castle. The Sentiero Materano crosses the wonderful Valle d'Itria where trulli surrounded by vineyards and olive groves as far as the eye can see represent the distinctive features of the local territory, passing through the heart of charming villages such as Alberobello, Martina Franca and Locorotondo. Ostuni, the white city, appears as a mirage, stands out on the hill of the plateau covered with olive trees, where the green plunges into the blue Adriatic Sea.</p>		

A.3 | Ciclovía dei Borboni

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovía Borboni	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
Length	Total ascent	Link to the route map
500 km	-	http://www.bicitalia.org/it/bicitalia/gli-itinerari-bicitalia/135-bi10-ciclovía-dei-borbone
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>This pilot area is crossed by 3 important and exciting cycling adventures in southern Italy not to be missed: the Bourbon cycle route, the Romeo-Francigena and the Adriatic cycle route.</p> <p>The Ciclovía dei Borboni is a route that the cyclist should not miss: 500 km to be faced in different stages among natural landscapes, discovering the peculiarities of places once under the power of the Bourbon dynasty. The route starts from Bari and crosses the Alta Murgia National Park in Puglia, discovering some places dear to Frederick II (including Castel del Monte). Cycling on the Ciclovía dei Borboni does not present extreme difficulties but the ups and downs are not lacking and the difference in height is discreet. The route guarantees total cycling: it develops entirely on asphalted roads open to traffic, but still pleasant roads, with low motorized traffic, with never excessive gradients and suggestive landscapes as background.</p>		

A.4 | Ciclovía Francigena

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovía Francigena	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
Length	Total ascent	Link to the route map
3.900 km	-	http://www.bicitalia.org/it/bicitalia/gli-itinerari-bicitalia/60-bi3-ciclovía-francigena
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Via Francigena (formerly Via Romea), is an ancient road rich in extraordinary beauty. The route crosses six different villages and connects numerous cathedrals, churches, monuments and museums that remind us of the historical importance of this pilgrimage route. The Via Francigena was an important pilgrimage and communication corridor in medieval Europe. Declared the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe in 1994, the Via Francigena began to be rediscovered and promoted for contemporary hikers; currently many parts are still in the process of completion due to its enormous extension, need for funds to be made safe and restored.</p>		

A.5 | Ciclovia Adriatica

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Ciclovia Adriatica	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
1.300 km		http://www.bicitalia.org/it/bicitalia/gli-itinerari-bicitalia/131-bi6-ciclovia-adriatica
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Adriatic Green Corridor or Adriatic Cycle Route is an interregional cycle path project that runs along the Adriatic Riviera connecting the boot from north to south. Crossing various regions it is possible to enjoy the rich diversity of Italian landscapes. The apulian route connects with the Mediterranean bicycle network that involves Italy, Malta, Cyprus and Greece. The planned route runs from Chieuti (FG) to Santa Maria di Leuca (LE), with two variants, one coastal, which continues bypassing the spur of the Gargano, easier and more accessible to all levels of cyclists, and one more inland through the Umbra Forest, on the Gargano.</p>		

A.6 | Birdwatching in Torre Guaceto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Birdwatching	Birdwatching in Torre Guaceto	Birdwatching in Torre Guaceto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>If you are passionate about photography and nature, you can not fail to visit the State Nature Reserve of 'Torre Guaceto' in search of the right subject to photograph. In the oasis you can practice birdwatching: the fauna is quite varied because, offering shelter to migratory birds, it represents a biotope of particular naturalistic and ornithological value. It is possible to admire the species that nest, the kestrel and the bittern, the migratory species reported are the grey heron, the red heron, the egret, the night heron and the bittern. There are also swamp sparrows, which generally have liveries suitable to camouflage among the reeds and it is possible to observe also the coot, the ducks, the pyro-pyrus and the swamp hawk. Thanks to its wealth of habitats and biodiversity, in 1981, Torre Guaceto was declared a Wetland of International Importance according to the Ramsar Convention.</p>		

A.7 | Horseback-riding in the Oasis of Torre Guaceto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Horseback-riding	Horseback-riding in the Oasis of Torre Guaceto	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Trekking through this nature reserve is an indescribable experience; strolling along the shore, crossing the "Macchia Mediterranea", diving into the sea, but what better way to explore this picturesque landscape with its rich wildlife, its widespread historical buildings, rural dwellings than riding a horse? A few steps from the Oasis, adjacent to the Itria Valley, enclosed by the Salento and Bari coasts, there is an equestrian center in continuous evolution. Through a horseback riding tour of 3 hours you can cross the beautiful nature reserve 'Torre Guaceto', or you can opt for a simpler route among the olive trees along the ancient roads "tratturi".</p>		

A.8 | Caves of san biagio - Ostuni

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Caving	Caves of San Biagio - Ostuni	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Ostuni
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The cave takes its name from the sanctuary dedicated to San Biagio which is located a few kilometers away. Described by the speleologists of the Geos (Hiking and Speleological Group) who set foot in it for the first time as a true spectacle of nature, which changes constantly because of the calcium and water that shape the forms. To enter you have to descend protected by a sling, through a vertical well originated by the collapse of the ground. Inside, a huge empty space the size of a soccer field, a hundred meters long and 80 wide. Inside the Cave of San Biagio were also found some archaeological finds most likely dating back to the Neolithic period. This suggests that this place was used since ancient times.</p>		

A.9 | Caves of Santa Maria di Belvedere

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Caving	Caves of Santa Maria di Belvedere – Carovigno	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>3 kilometers from Carovigno, 100 meters above sea level and surrounded by the countryside of the Itria Valley, the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Belvedere hides a complex system of natural cavities, which includes the ancient Belvedere Cave.</p> <p>From the Sanctuary, you can access the rock caves through a staircase on the right side of the chapel. In the first crypt there are the rests of the fresco of St. Michael and an aedicule of 1501. Going down for about 18 meters you reach the lower crypt in which some tunnels converge. This crypt contains two more frescoes of the Virgin and Child and the Madonna di Belvedere</p>		

A.10 | Scuba diving & Snorkeling in the Marine Reserve

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure – Scuba diving & Snorkeling	Scuba diving & Snorkeling in the Marine Reserve	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Natural Reserve of the State of Torre Guaceto extends for about 1,200 hectares with a sea front that develops for 8,000 meters.</p> <p>The area is configured as a more or less regular rectangle, with an average depth of 3.000 meters, The stretch of coastline that delimits the MPA, despite being relatively short, is characterized by a very varied coastline; in particular, in correspondence with the southern side of Torre di Guaceto, the coast is linear and consists mainly of a clayey cliff, then a small rocky cliff with jagged edges that form a series of small coves and in the next stretch, continuing towards Punta Penna Grossa, the coast becomes low and sandy. In this area there are also experiences accessible to less experienced snorkeling, sailing and sea watching. An immersion in the blue of the Mediterranean as a short walk back to the water to collect impressions and emotions. The emotion of the first breath underwater, the first step towards the knowledge of sea creatures, the approach to the incredible underwater ecosystem proposed in a natural and extremely gradual way to allow everyone to approach the world of scuba diving. Courses are held in several languages at all levels, from beginner to instructor.</p>		

A.11 | Table sea sport in the marine Reserve

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Table sea sport	Table sea sport in the marine Reserve	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Inside the natural oasis of Torre Guaceto, Apani, Brindisi there are several facilities, sailing centers, sports clubs where you can practice water sports. Its favourable exposure to the wind, both in summer and winter, makes it an ideal beach for sailing sports. Here there is the opportunity to experience the sea in its most absolute form, both sport and relaxation, suitable for all athletes and especially for fans of sailing disciplines. Born near the pristine reserve of Torre Guaceto, these facilities are equipped for Kitesurfing - Surfing - Sup - Windsurfing courses.</p>		

A. 12 | Culinary Activities – Delights for gourmets

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Of sea and land	AP.4 Torre Guaceto Carovigno
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>From the blue of the sea to the bright colours of the red earth, from the plain of the ancient olive trees of Puglia to the green of the Itria Valley. It is the heart of the region, rich in delicious pleasures and rediscovered flavors, with a high presence of Slow Food Presidia.</p> <p>In nearby Ostuni are produced DOC wines in white and Ottavianello types and natural lager beers and double malt; while further south, in the heart of the Reserve of Torre Guaceto there is the reign of two Slow Food Presidia, that of the Small Fishing in the Marine Protected Area and that of the Fiaschetto Tomato. For the most greedy stop at San Michele Salentino to buy the almond dried fig and Ceglie Messapica, undisputed city of taste, which offers the traditional Biscotto Ceglieese, Slow Food Presidium.</p> <p>In Torre Guaceto it is also possible, on request at the Park Authority, to do sport fishing in the area "C", only with the cane, from September to May. By reservation you can also board boats to observe the profession of fisherman and fish with them, using your own line.</p>		

2.2.5 Otranto–Leuca

NATURAL REGIONAL PARK OF OTRANTO–LEUCA COAST AND BOSCO DI TRICASE [PILOT AREA N.5]

The Regional Natural Park Otranto–Santa Maria di Leuca Coast and Bosco di Tricase is the only coastal park in Puglia. Its perimeter includes 12 municipalities which constitute the social system of reference. It develops along a large SCI (Site of Community Interest) and connects within it to four other sites, of particular conservationist importance.

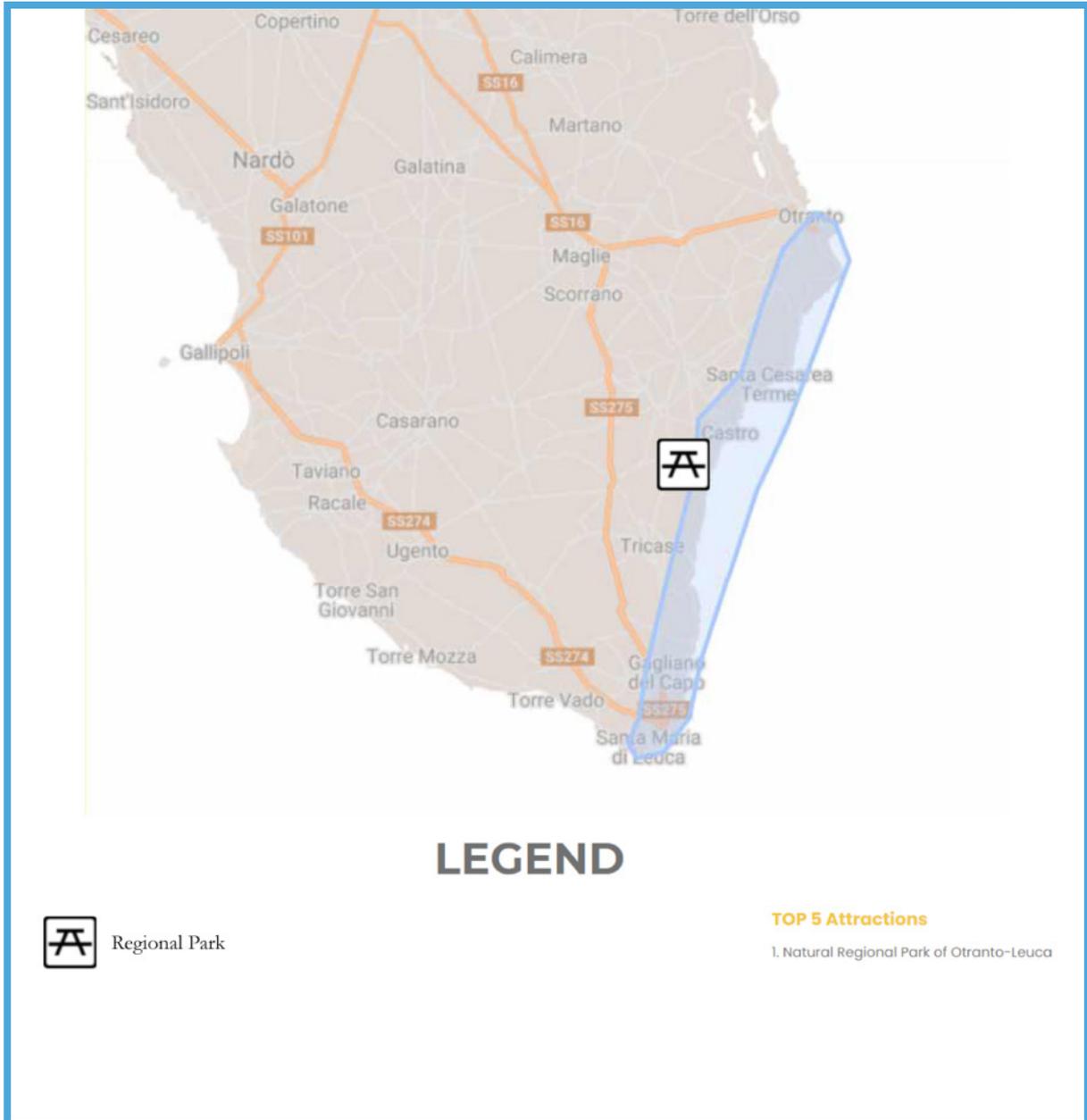
It preserves a naturalistic heritage of great scientific value and a cultural heritage with rich historical, artistic and archaeological evidence that can be appreciated thanks to the restoration of the numerous and differentiated crossing paths, such as those bordered by the characteristic “muretti a secco”, or still the “salt routes”.

The Park is a real point of reference for sustainable tourism and, in a broad sense, for the prospects of sustainable local development of the area. The Salento is especially renowned for its seas and beaches, but the real strengths of this area are the environmental and cultural elements. Moreover, the recent creation

of the Ionian–Adriatic Macroregion offers a further valuable contribution to strengthen both the ongoing actions and future projects launched by the Park to promote the attractiveness of the entire area.

The park has a unique ecosystem of mass tourism and unknown areas, the first by the coastline, the latter by internal areas. Thus, the two areas benefit each other: bringing stable tourists experiencing unknown areas in a more sustainable way, as well as attracting new niches of tourism markets, such as adventure tourists.

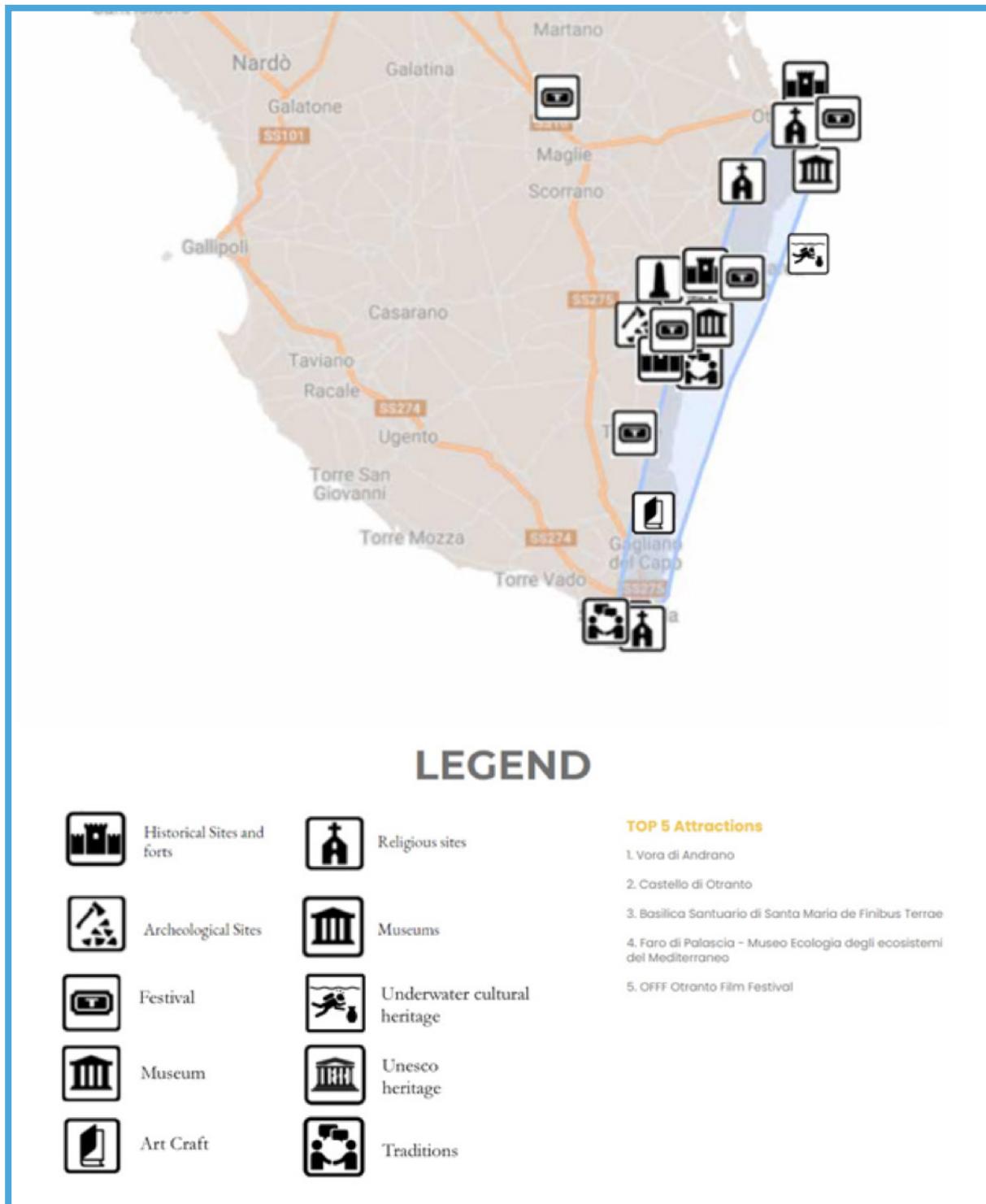
NATURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



N.1 | Natural Regional Park of Otranto–Leuca coast

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Nature - Park	Natural Regional Park of Otranto–Leuca coast	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>With over fifty kilometers of coastline and 3200 hectares of land is the largest of the regional parks established in the province of Lecce. A road with a thousand hairpin bends is the historical backbone of a breathtaking landscape, from terraced olive groves to cliffs overlooking the sea, a natural spectacle to be known and preserved. It is no coincidence that here, where the last stretch of the Adriatic Sea gives way to the Ionian Sea, was born a large Protected Area, established by regional law in 2006 and became part of the network of reserves and natural parks of Salento, a long strip of land between two historical bastions of the coast: Torre del Serpe, an old lighthouse of Roman origin, place of the legendary events, opens the door of the Park, in the easternmost point of Italy (Palascia) and leads us on an exciting journey through picturesque coves, pastures, pine forests, olive groves, small forests and deep gullies to the mighty lighthouse of Leuca, ending in that Finis terrae, where even Italy ends and looks beyond to another continent.</p>		

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS MAP



C.1 Menhir Vardare		
Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place	Pilota Area & Place
Menhir Vardare	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Diso	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca
EVALUATION		
Current T value	Potential T value for AT	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>In the countryside of Diso, along Via delle Vardare, in Salento, you can admire one of the most unusual shaped menhirs: it resembles a T. It takes its name from the road bordered by ancient dry stone walls that runs along the small handkerchief of land, lit in spring by the bright colors of poppies and camomile, in which it is fixed, a few steps from the chapel of the Madonna della Neve.</p> <p>Discovered by Giovanni Così, in 1980, the menhir of the Vardare, almost 2 meters high, is characterized by having three crosses engraved and on its top a small cupel also this one from the origin and uncertain functions. In the past the menhirs were used in the most disparate way: to mark important roads and villages, to channel the energy given by the sun god to fertilize and invigorate the earth, to indicate hidden treasures.</p>		

C.2 Vora of Andrano		
Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Archeological Sites	Vora of Andrano	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Andrano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The village of Andrano lies on the plateau of the Adriatic orographic greenhouse, above a fine-grained white sandy limestone, called white "carparo", which resembles a variety of Lecce stone. The vora of Andrano, also called Vora Martella, is situated along the route that leads to the important complex of the Masseria del Mito near the chapel of the Madonna dell'Artica on the homonymous greenhouse. The morphology of the territory is conditioned by the phenomenon of karst, which often assumes the typical appearance of "stone fields" or "karst stones", which make it accessible only through a series of long artificial tunnels that are made for the canalization of wastewater and rainwater.</p>		

C.3 | Castle of Otranto

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Otranto	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Otranto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The city of Otranto since ancient times has always been used as a defence for the very important strategic position on which it stands. The castle, today a renowned and much visited destination, was seriously damaged in the Byzantine era. In 1228 it was Frederick II of Swabia, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Sicily, to promote a reconstruction of the castle, of which today the traces of a cylindrical tower remain visible. Today the Aragonese Castle is the defensive stronghold of the city of Otranto, a treasure chest of culture and knowledge that swarms with events and exhibitions of character. It has a pentagonal plan with three angular cylindrical towers with a circular plan and a spear-shaped bastion, whose tip soars towards the sea, all surrounded by a moat. The fifth corner has no tower.</p>		

C.4 | Castle of Andrano

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Andrano	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Andrano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Castle of Andrano dates back to the thirteenth century and originally rose as a farm, but was adapted to the defensive canons in the fifteenth century, under the rule of the Saracen family. Following the Turkish takeover of Otranto in 1480, the works underwent a sharp acceleration. To the Saraceno happened in 1606 the family Spinola, then the Gallone in 1618 that operated a series of modifications destined to transform the structure in noble residence and then to the Caracciolo. Nevertheless the castle has not lost its imposing fortress aspect. Owners of the structure until a few decades ago. In the 80s of the twentieth century the manor was purchased by the municipality of Andrano. The castle has a quadrangular plan, with a central parade ground and four corner towers consisting of quadrangular and a cylindrical tower in the south – east corner. The building has two floors, the first floor and the noble floor. Today the fortress is home to associations such as the Pro Loco and the consortium that manages the Regional Natural Park Costa Otranto – Santa Maria di Leuca e Bosco di Tricase, and is a location for exhibitions, conferences and other cultural initiatives.</p>		

C.5 | Castle of Castro

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Historic sites and Forts	Castle of Castro	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Castro
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
2	4	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The first certain news of a castle in Castro dates back to the 13th century. Almost certainly the structure rose on rests of a previous building of Byzantine age that defended the fortified Roman village, defined 'fortress of strategic importance for the defense of the kingdom'. In 1480 it was destroyed, to be then rebuilt by the Spanish viceroy in 1572; it was the Sienese architect Tiburzio Spannocchi to take care of the restructuring of the castle and the city walls. The building, situated in the point where Porta Terra opened, is of squared plan with four strong towers on the sides, and it is articulated around a courtyard, on which all the rooms overlook: on the eastern side, between the great bastion and the Knight's Tower, there is the room called 'di Levante'; on the north side there are the rooms 'di Tramontana', while on the left side there is a porticoed room and the 'Sala di Ponente'.</p>		

C.7 | Palascia lighthouse – Museum on ecology of mediterranean ecosystem

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Museums and Exhibitions	Lighthouse of Palascia – Museum on ecology of Mediterranean ecosystem	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Palascia
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Museum on Ecology of Mediterranean Ecosystems – Punta Palascia Lighthouse – perched on the coast overlooking the sea and completely immersed in the landscape, was born thanks to the fruitful institutional collaboration, between the City of Otranto and the University of Salento. The museum was created with the double aim of spreading ecological culture and promoting awareness of our biological role as a species capable of modifying, the balances, goods and services of ecosystems. The museum is open to virtual naturalistic and scientific exhibitions, but it can also host exhibitions of photography, painting, archaeology, in which stories Mediterranean ecosystems are described or told.</p>		

C.8 | Vito Mele museum of leuca

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Museums and Exhibitions	Vito Mele Museum of Leuca	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Santa Maria di Leuca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Museum Vito Mele is located in the south of Puglia, in Leuca. The museum was born thanks to the synergy between the Salento sculptor Vito Mele and the personalities of the Sanctuary of Santa Maria De Finibus Terrae. It is in fact set up in some rooms adjacent to the Sanctuary of Santa Maria di Leuca and exhibits sculptures by national and international artists, donated by the Salento master. The collection is divided into historical masters and contemporary artists, among the most significant names Medardo Rosso, Eros Pellini, Giovanni Conservo, Oreste Quattrini, Giò Pomodoro and there is no lack of Salento artists.</p>		

C.9 | Cathedral of Santa Maria Annunziata (Otranto)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Cathedral of Santa Maria Annunziata (Otranto)	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Otranto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	4	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>In the center of the ancient village, stands one of the architectural wonders not only of Otranto, but of the whole Salento: the Cathedral of Santa Maria Annunziata. It is not a simple church or just a place of worship to see and admire, but an extraordinary historical testimony of the life of the city. The Cathedral dates back to the second half of the year 1000 and was built on ancient ruins of Messapian, Roman and early Christian villages. For these reasons, the Cathedral has an original style: the facade has a gabled shape, with a large central rose window, enriched by thin Gothic tunnels. These are elements wanted by the various archbishops who over the years have followed one another at the command of the diocese of Otranto.</p>		

C.10 | Crypt of Sant'Elena or San Solomo

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Crypt of Sant'Elena or San Solomo	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Uggiano la Chiesa
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The crypt of St. Helena or St. Solomon owes its name to a probable deformation of the Greek word "Eleusa", the name of the Virgin, depicted in a fresco. Of Byzantine origin, it dates back to the XI-XII century when Salento was one of the Byzantine possessions in which Basilian monks intensely exercised their activity, becoming an economic and cultural power in Terra d'Otranto. It has a floor plan with a nave and two aisles, tripartite with 12 trapezoidal pillars that mark the interior space. It is accessed by a side entrance and the walls, enlivened by niches, are marked by numerous small cavities for lighting with skylights. There are still some traces of frescoes that once covered the entire surface.</p>		

C.11 | Basilica of Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Religious sites	Basilica of Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Santa Maria di Leuca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Welcome to the far eastern part of Italy, welcome to the Japigeo promontory, where pontiffs, saints, illustrious men and many pilgrims have come from all over to pay homage to the Madonna de Finibus Terrae. Here suspended between east and west, stands the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria di Leuca or de Finibus Terrae. The first church was built at the dawn of Christianity, on the ruins of a pagan temple dedicated to the Goddess Minerva. Due to its geographical position, the Sanctuary was subject to continuous destruction and looting by the Turks and Saracens. The current building is the sixth and was erected in 1700. Together with the Sanctuary were built the annexed buildings to offer hospitality to the faithful.</p>		

C.12 | Notte della taranta

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Notte della Taranta	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Melpignano
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The “Notte della Taranta” is the largest festival in Italy and one of the most significant events in popular culture in Europe. It takes place in Salento and is specifically dedicated to the rediscovery and enhancement of traditional Salento music and its fusion with other musical languages, from world music to rock, from jazz to symphonic music. The engaging sound of the Salento pizzica merges with international music giving a great show. Founded in 1998 on the initiative of the Union of Municipalities of the Grecia Salentina, in fifteen years the festival has become the protagonist of an extraordinary growth in size, turnout and prestige.</p>		

C.13 | OFFF Otranto Film Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	OFFF Otranto Film Festival	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Otranto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>OFFF – Otranto Film Fund Festival, proposes itself as a moment of deepening on the market prospects of European audiovisual productions, as well as on the role that Film Funds and Film Commissions can play for the financing and promotion of works at international level, through an observatory dedicated to film production within the Adriatic–Ionian Macroregion. The Festival organizes several communities with an itinerant path within the city of Otranto that will interact as a single community at the final event: the Cinema. OFFF- Otranto Film Fund Festival, is an event dedicated to the dialogue between the cinema and the various communities already in previous editions, has proved to be a fundamental opportunity for the knowledge and diffusion of cinematographic works coming from different geographical and cultural places and realities.</p>		

C.14 | Etnica Diso Folk Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Etnica Diso Folk Festival	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Diso
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	3	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Festival takes place in Diso, a small Messapian town located on the south east coast of Salento in the province of Lecce.</p> <p>ETHNIC DISCO FOLK FESTIVAL is, without doubt, one of the most awaited cultural and musical events of the summer in Salento. Conceived to spread the knowledge of the musical cultures of the world, the Festival has tried to give “voice” to the people farthest from our culture by inviting artists chosen on the basis of their authenticity and respect for tradition.</p> <p>Since the first edition was inaugurated in 1999, more than 50 musical groups and more than 250 artists have performed in Diso, including some of the most representative Italian and foreign artists of the genre. It is a review attentive to the search for tradition but at the same time open to the modernity of ethnic music transformed and innovated by contact with other cultures that clamor to be safeguarded and handed down.</p>		

C.16 | OFFF Otranto Film Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	Pyrex Arena	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Santa Cesare Terme (LE)
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>A cliff overlooking the sea, overlooking the Otranto Canal, in one of the most incredible frames of Salento. An explosive line-up that contains the most famous names of international club culture. Four stages, two gigantic dancefloors, a swimming pool and a panoramic terrace. These are the ingredients of PYREX ARENA, the two days completely dedicated to electronic sounds and already cult of the apulian summer. a musical offer dedicated to young people and lovers of electronics.</p>		

C.17 | SIFF Salento International Film Festival

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Festivals	SIFF Salento International Film Festival	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Otranto
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	2
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Salento International Film Festival is a celebration of cinema and filmmakers, promoting international independent cinema, in recognition of the fact that cinema is the most powerful form of cultural communication and link between cultures and peoples.</p> <p>Founded in 2004 by Luigi Campanile, the Salento International Film Festival has established itself as a major cultural event and the most important film festival in Southern Italy. Every year it introduces filmmakers from all over the world to the unique resources of Salento, celebrating the history and future of the film industry with 5 days of world premieres, special events, seminars, feature films, short films, documentaries. In 2020 Siff was included in the list of the 50 Top Film Festivals emerging in the world by IFF iFilm Festival magazine.</p>		

C.18 | Feast of Maria SS Annunziata (Castro)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture – Traditions	Feast of Maria SS Annunziata (Castro)	AP.5 Costa Otranto–Leuca Castro
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The city of Castro honours its protector and is proud of this special protection, since the beautiful Adriatic town passed from the jurisdiction of Byzantium to that of Rome. Characteristics of the feast are the fireworks at sea, the beautiful Saturday morning procession and the stands of the Fish Festival in Sarsa, which will be offered free of charge by the party committee.</p> <p>It is worth “looking out” to Castro in concomitance with the festivities in honor of the patroness Maria SS. Annunziata. Overhanging, a splendid view of the Otranto Channel, dotted with coves and sea caves, almost two hours of fantastic choreography, architecture and glow of lights and colors under the blue vault and some balloons launched between a pyrotechnic “fire” and the other.</p>		

C.19 | Feast of Santi Apostoli Filippo e Giacomo (Diso)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Feast of Santi Apostoli Filippo e Giacomo (Diso)	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Diso
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The Salento that surprises goes beyond the binomial "mare-ientu". Narrative of art and culture, rituals and traditions that nourish the history of each country. A Salento that moves between sacred and profane and focuses on the folklore of the patronal festivals to tell the story. This is the Salento that produces the magic of enchantments "out of season" and attracts the faithful, tourists and curious to feed them with the rites of the patronal feasts. The cult of Saints Philip and James, in Diso, is lost in time and retracing its history backwards, nothing is defined there that can indicate its beginnings. A majestic feast that testifies the extraordinary devotion to Saints Philip and James. From April 30 to May 3 Diso becomes, so, a destination for the faithful who come to the small village even from outside the region. But also for the lovers of the piric art, Diso has become an unmissable appointment. To honor the patrons San Filippo and Giacomo, in fact, there is also one of the most famous fireworks festival in southern Italy</p>		

C.20 | Feast of Maria SS Annunziata (Castro)

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Feast of Maria SS Annunziata (Castro)	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Santa Maria di Leuca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	1
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Here the Assumed Virgin is Saint Mary of Leuca, the one who blesses from the top of the promontory of Finibus Terrae. Every year the traditional "intorciata" takes place, when a sea of lighted torches carry the statue of the Assumption in procession, illuminating its path and then ending the journey at sea. Once arrived at the port, the statue is taken aboard a fishing boat drawn by lot and decorated for the particular occasion. Followed in an evocative procession of floats, boats and the music band, the fishing boat transports the statue to the Marina of San Gregorio and from there it returns.</p> <p>At the return the celebration of the Holy Mass and at the end of the evening, the sky is illuminated by the ritual fireworks display. The party continues until late into the night, with numerous stalls of sweets and gastronomic specialties, the illuminations, and concerts of popular music. The statue of the Madonna, in procession, goes to meet the pilgrimage that from the church of Christ the King, in the Marina di Leuca reaches the Basilica, where the prayer vigil is held in preparation for the feast of the Assumption.</p>		

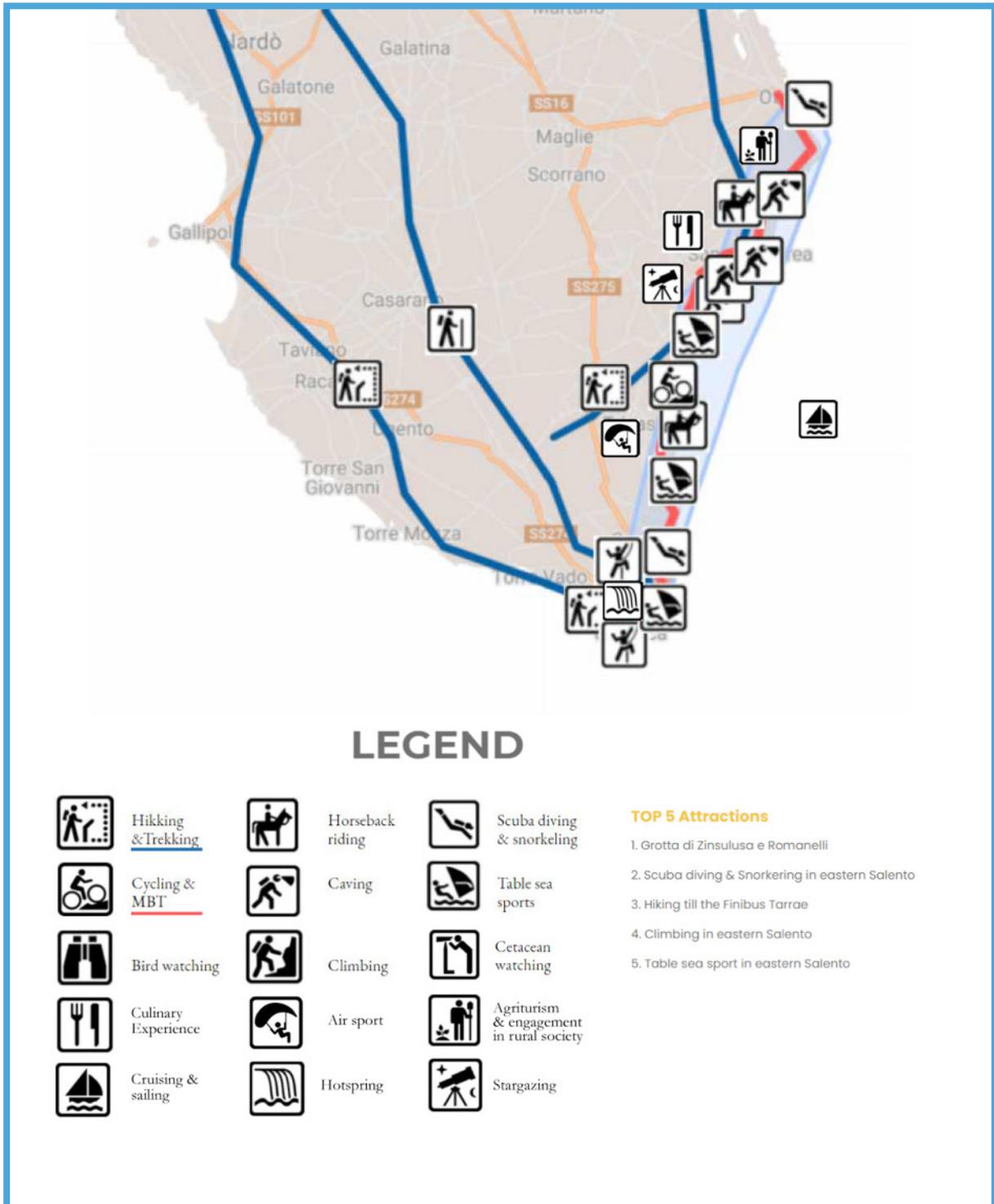
C.21 | Pietra Leccese Art craft

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Pietra Leccese Art craft	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Salento hosts one of the most important baroque heritage worldwide, with Rome and Noto in Sicily. The highest artistic peaks had been reached in sculpture and architectural details, expressing the aesthetic and erotical excesses of the baroque soul. High level of details, shapes and expressions typical of baroque style had been possible to the soft and easy-workable nature of Pietra Leccese. It is a calcareous stone and it is still an identity material of these lands. For centuries, the art craft tradition with Pietra Leccese had been preserved by handling from father to son. In the last few years more and more young people are interested in and learning this fine art. Many visitors bring home a piece of Salento, buying handcrafted sculptures and objects made by local craftsmen.</p>		

C.22 | Underwater Cultural Heritage of Porto Badisco

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Underwater Cultural Heritage of Porto Badisco	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Porto Badisco
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The main studies on the underwater archeology in the region are from the '60s directed by Peter Throckmorton. They are focused mainly in the Salento peninsula, of which this pilot area is part of. Among the most important sites is Porto Badisco: its underwater treasure preserved most important traces of the active role of this site from archaic ages to Medieval ones. Most important ones are from Roman and Medieval ages, due to the closeness to the port of Otranto. In fact, many studies hypothesize it was an auxiliary port of Otranto, where ships get repaired. Among the most important finds is a wreck from I century BC in a very good status. The load of ceramic and stone artifacts is part of the Museo Castromediano collection in Lecce.</p>		

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES MAP



A.1 | Hiking till the Finibus Terrae

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Hiking & Trekking	Hiking till the Finibus Terrae	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Santa Maria di Leuca
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
800 km	-	https://www.camminidileuca.it/diretrici-storiche-del-salento/
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The program “Cammini di Leuca” started in 2016 with a research activity, identifies the paths, trajectories and stages of the three historical routes that for centuries have crossed the Salento looking at the Papal Basilica Sanctuary “De Finibus Terrae”:</p> <p>LA VIA SALLENTINA, of Messapic origin; The Via Sallentina is a coastal road of Messapic origin, passing along the Ionic side of the Salento peninsula, which connected Taranto to Otranto. It was brought back for the first time in the Tabula Peutingeriana, introduced only at the end of the 4th century (with the name of Via Augusta Sallentina).</p> <p>THE TRAIAN CALABRA WAY, of Roman origin; The Calabrian Via Traiana was the extension of the Via Traiana that connected Brindisi to the city of Hydruntum (Otranto), passing through Valesium and Lupiae (Lecce). It owes its name to the curious fact that, in Roman times, the Salento peninsula was called “Calabria”. Other mail stations were the “mansio clipeas” (in the immediate vicinity of Lecce) and a mutatio valentia that corresponded to Valesium.</p> <p>LA VIA LEUCADENSE, a Marian route and natural continuation of the European routes of Perdonanza. Throughout the course of history, Leuca represented a destination for humanity on the way in which the medieval pilgrim found shelter in the crypts, assistance in convents and monasteries, information on the path through the iconography of Eastern saints: (Archangel Michael, or St. Christopher, St. Nicholas, St. Barbara or St. James).</p>		

A.2 | Cycling in eastern Salento

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Cycling & Mountain bike	Cycling in eastern Salento	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca 10 municipalities
Lenght	Total ascent	Link to the route map
210 km	-	https://www.touringclub.it/itinerari-e-weekend/cinque-itinerari-per-scoprire-la-puglia-in-bici
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>The very long Puglia (more than 400 km), with its extraordinary farmhouses, is today among the top destinations for cycling vacations in Italy, Europe and abroad. For some years now Puglia has been a renowned destination for national and international cyclists. The reasons are various: the geological conformation of the territory, partly flat and partly hilly; the diversity of landscapes offered by Puglia, the easternmost region of Italy; good food, the architectural and artistic variety of small villages, the slow lifestyle that fascinates and excites cyclists in Puglia. More than 800 km of coastline, where rocky cliffs alternate with long sandy beaches. In Puglia there are almost no bike paths, but little matter as they are replaced by hundreds of country roads that become real bike paths, where thousands of olive trees shelter the cyclist from the sun. Many are the inland roads, sheep tracks and country roads that are used by bike and mountain bike lovers, among others the Adriatic cycle route, which runs along the boot along the sea, and that of the Bourbons that connects Naples to Bari. The most beautiful bike paths connect fascinating sites and cities such as Lecce, Matera, Cisternino, Martina Franca, Alberobello, Ostuni, Gallipoli, Leuca, Otranto and many others.</p>		

A.3 | Horseback-riding in eastern Salento

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Horseback-riding	Horseback-riding in eastern Salento	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca 12 municipalities
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Discovering the apulian Salento on horseback is a great way to see the landscape and enjoy the outdoors. There are many stables that allow you to go horseback riding, both inland and along the coast.</p> <p>You can choose the duration of the excursion and the environment you prefer, through the countryside, on the beach or along the coast. For all lovers of sports and nature, autumn is an ideal time. There are many activities offered in protected areas, parks and nature reserves. Authentic and exclusive experiences in close contact with nature It is possible to ride gently between thick Mediterranean scrub and ancient pinewoods, with a surprising wealth of fauna and flora, and with the scent of thyme and juniper in the air.</p>		

A.4 | Grotta dei Cervi Porto Badisco

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Caving	Grotta dei Cervi Porto Badisco	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Porto Badisco
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>To the south of Otranto opens the bay of Porto Badisco, a natural port formed over the millennia by the presence of an ancient river, which left not only the deep inlet that gives its name to Porto Badisco, but also many karst manifestations in the rocks. The Grotta dei Cervi (Deer Cave) is located in Porto Badisco near Otranto at a depth of 26 meters below sea level and is not just any cave: it is in fact the most impressive Neolithic painting complex in Europe so as to be called the Sistine Chapel of prehistory. Salento is one of the largest areas of Europe to host dolmens, menhirs and megalithic monuments, there are about 120 throughout the territory. In the 70s were discovered some pictograms dating back to the Neolithic, dated between 3,000 and 4,000 BC. Unfortunately, unlike other caves, this one is not open to the public to preserve the pictograms and prevent pathogens from grafting onto this fragile thousand-year-old habitat.</p>		

A.5 | Grotta Zinzulusa and Grotta Romanelli Castro

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Caving	Grotta Zinzulusa and Grotta Romanelli Castro	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Castro
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>A boat trip to discover the sea caves of Castro, not to be missed for lovers of sea and nature. You can visit various caves accessible only by sea: Romanelli, Azzurra, Palombara, Sulfurea and Striare and the Zinzulusa Cave, reachable by land, famous for the "Zinzuli", stalactite concretions similar to rags, which decorate the vault in the access area.</p> <p>The Zinzulusa, one of the most famous and important manifestations of Italian coastal karst, overlooks the Ionian Sea, along the coast between Castro Marina and Santa Cesarea Terme. The cave is divided into three geomorphologically distinct parts. The first, which extends from the wide entrance to the Crypt, is excavated in compact limestone and is characterized by a great variety of stalactites and stalagmites. The second part, which extends from the Crypt to the large cavity called "Il Duomo", less compact and more evident are the results of the intense erosive action of the internal waters. Finally, the terminal part that houses the clear waters of "Cocito". The Romanelli cave is one of the natural coastal caves of Salento, in Castro. Discovered in the early 1900s, the cave is only 35 meters long, and it is evident from the findings that it was a refuge for man in the Palaeolithic. It consists of a single large open and visible from the outside.</p>		

A.6 | Thermal caves in Santa Cesarea Terme

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - hotspring	Thermal caves in Santa Cesarea Terme	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Santa Cesare Terme (LE)
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	4	3
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Santa Cesarea Terme is renowned for being home to an important spa resort since the beginning of the twentieth century, among the most complete of the entire peninsula. The existence in the Santa Cesarea Terme of springs with therapeutic properties is very ancient and already noted in the fifteenth century. However, here there was no longer any inhabited center until the middle of the nineteenth century, when the attention of doctors returned to the particular benefits of these waters so much to realize over time a real spa, which was followed by the urban development of the small town. It is possible both to visit the caves and to benefit from their therapeutic waters. The water of the spa is sulphurous-salty-bromine-ionic and is enriched directly by the spring veins that extend along a long stretch of coast from Porto Badisco to Castro.</p>		

A.7 | Climbing in eastern Salento

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Climbing	Climbing in eastern Salento	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Ponte Ciolo, Santa Maria di Leuca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	4	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Rock, sea, sun, ancient cultures, deep-rooted traditions and people incredibly attentive to everything that is news. The Salento Vertical project, after this first bolting session, has finally allowed Salento to offer safe sports climbing for everyone's enjoyment. Wonderful free climbing routes on high cliffs that surround the coast and overlook a fabulous sea. An absolutely unique way to enjoy the cliffs of Salento, between the dark color of the rock and the scents of the Mediterranean maquis. You can do your free climbing inside the gigantic Grotta della Mannuta, or the Grotta delle Prazziche, both located between Ciolo and Santa Maria di Leuca.</p>		

A.8 | Scuba diving & Snorkeling in eastern Salento

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Scuba diving & Snorkeling	Scuba diving & Snorkeling in eastern Salento	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Castro, Otranto,
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
4	5	5
DESCRIPTION		
<p>If you want to discover the beauty of the seabed, then arm yourself with a mask and fins and float to the discovery of a typical habitat, formed by a succession of cliffs, rich in flora and fauna. For experts, instead, oxygen tanks and diving equipment. If you are a beginner and eager to learn, there are several courses, in almost every seaside resort on the coast</p> <p>For snorkelers the Salento is a must-see destination. There are many sites with rich depths, such as the Grotta della Poesia, a sort of natural swimming pool connected to the open sea by a deep blue grotto that will leave you breathless. Swimming through this cave we will arrive right under a vertical cliff. Roca Vecchia and the Cave of Poetry in Porto Badisco the white sand slopes down to small steps towards the sea to make way for a reef rich in numerous marine forms. Looking at the bottom you can see many mullets and algae with</p>		

A.9 | Table sea sport in eastern Salento

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Adventure - Table sea sport	Table sea sport in eastern Salento	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Porto Badisco, Cesarea Terme
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
3	2	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Kite surfing, and water board sports are available at any time of the year. The hot days, which Salento enjoys even in autumn and winter (low season), in fact, allow you to fully enjoy the activities, thanks to the less crowded. The beaches for kitesurfing in Salento are various with beautiful peculiarities, among the most famous we certainly have the kitesurf spot in Porto Cesareo with winds coming from the south within the lagoon Strea the sea is definitely flat ideal for those who love freestyle or wakestyle. Among the kitesurf spots on the Adriatic coast, the beach of San Foca and Frassanito are definitely among the most famous, where the winds are usually stronger thanks to the currents in the Otranto channel, ideal with winds coming from the North.</p>		

A. 10 | Culinary Activities – of red and blue

Category & Type	Attraction Name	Pilota Area & Place
Culture - Traditions	Of red and blue	AP.5 Costa Otranto-Leuca Santa Maria di Leuca
EVALUATION		
Level of use	Current T value	Potential T value for AT
5	5	4
DESCRIPTION		
<p>Red like wine, tomatoes and chili. Blue like the sea and poor fish. An itinerary of taste in Salento, with the vineyards of Primitivo and Negroamaro that have their roots in history and a countryside that preserves extraordinary fruits: the chicory of Otranto, the pestanaca of Tiggiano, the dwarf pea and the fava beans of Zollino, the potatoes Sieglinde of Galatina. With many farms that put on the table legumes in pignata and homemade pasta, sagne and minchiareddhi.</p> <p>Infinite variety of breads, frise, taralli and pucce cooked in wood-fired ovens, seasoned with excellent oil DOP Terra d'Otranto, until the beginning of '900 worked in underground mills of which is rich in Salento.</p> <p>Some can be visited, such as Presicce, Specchia, Scorrano, Giurdignano, Carpignano Salentino and Gallipoli. Festive atmosphere with festivals and gastronomic festivals that cross villages and marinas, such as Ugento, Maglie and S. Cesarea Terme. Delicious cooked and raw seafood dishes are tasted along the coast, from the Ionian to the Adriatic, starting from Porto Cesareo which with Torre San Giovanni is Slow Food Presidium for small artisanal fishing, passing by Gallipoli kingdom of red shrimp, to get to Leuca, Tricase Porto, Castro, Porto Badisco and in the stretch between Otranto and San Foca where to make a feast of sea urchins and seafood on the rocks.</p>		



3. ADVENTURE TOURISM ECOSYSTEM IN PILOT AREAS

In this chapter we are going to summarize the various elements that constitute the tourism ecosystem in the five pilot areas. A strong political vision and important economical investments in the latter 10 years are leading an important transformation of the touristic and cultural industry, toward an organic and complete ecosystem, with the goal to ensure the unique apulian experience.

Here we'll analyse four main points:

- Infrastructure and mobility: describing how to arrive, how to move and the hospitality in each pilot area.
- Services and experiences: showing the experiential ecosystem in each area
- DMO & Stakeholders: here the focus is on organizations mainly involved in the pilot areas
- Impact of Covid-19 on the tourist sector and measures to help the industry: the tourist industry is among the most affected by covid-19 social and economical crisis. Here we will analyze the impact and measures undertaken for contrasting the crisis.

3.1 Infrastructures & Mobility

Ph. Pietro Crivelli

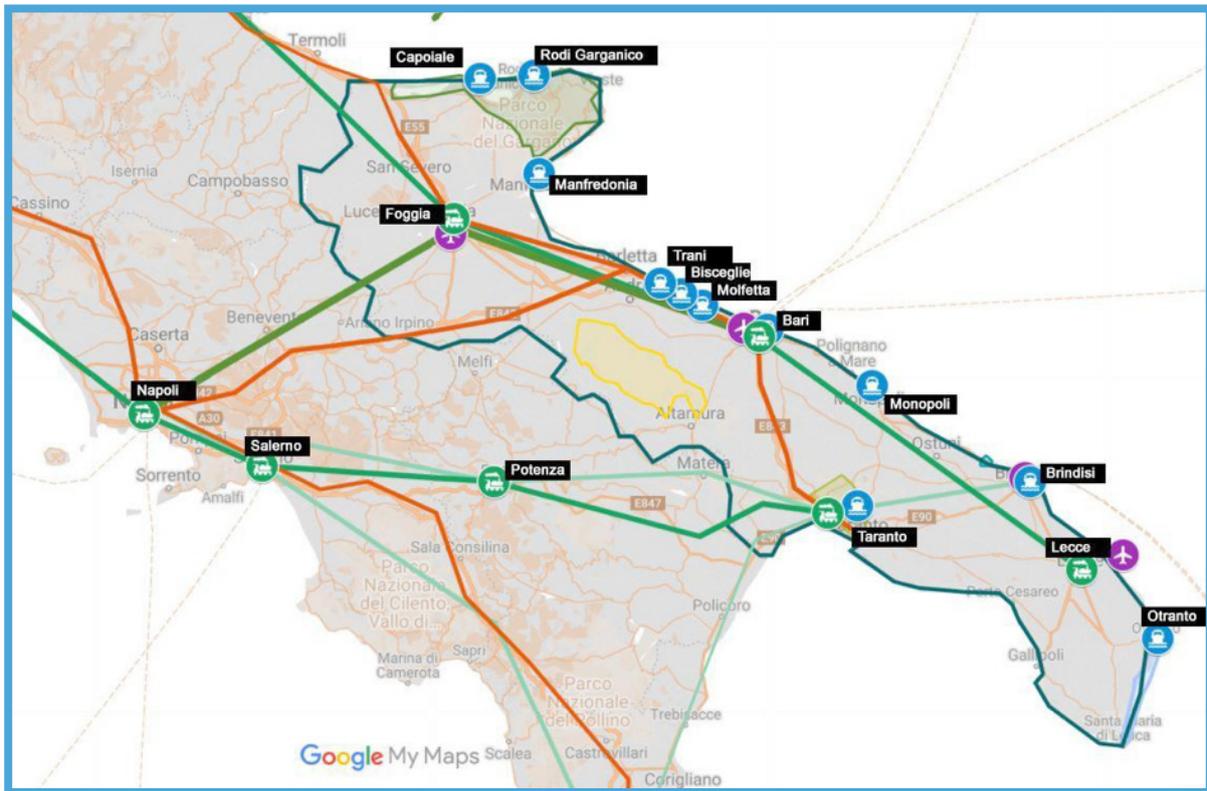


Due to its strategic position in the mediterranean basin, Puglia region is well connected both externally and internally, even though strong improvements on railway infrastructure should be done. The very distributed antropic presence in the region does not facilitate an high public transport capillarity, therefore a rented or own transportation is still the ideal solution for travel across Puglia. Further, in this way you could reach incredible places which are not connected by public transport. In

the last 3 years a strong strategic vision has been developed around the so-called soft mobility, which is mainly walking and cycling: slow and ancient mobility ways to experience the apulian culture and ritmo in the best possible way.

The table below summarizes the accommodation offer of the Puglia region by type and category of hospitality. N.C. states for "Not categorizable".

The number of total beds for selected pilot areas accounts for 118.298, which is almost 42%



of the total amount in the region. This data can be read as a statistical significance of the selected pilot area, within the whole region.

# of Beds										
	N.C.	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	5*lux	Cat.1	Cat.2	Totale
B&B	29.975									29.975
Camping		3.212	10.257	40.178	18.739					72.386
Farm holidays	12.817									12.817
Holiday houses	25.504									25.504
Hostels								96	46	142
Hotels		841	2.226	31.753	53.869	2.469	2.184			93.342
Rent-rooms	10.420									10.420
Residential hotels			832	4.718	10.222					15.772
Touristic villages			2.591	16.010	5.492					24.093
Totale	78.716	4.053	15.906	92.659	88.322	2.469	2.184	96	46	284.451

Gargano – Foresta Umbra, Lesina Lake Reserve, Varano Reserve and Tremiti Islands

HOW TO ARRIVE

It is possible to arrive in the Gargano pilot area by road, train, air or sea.

By road you can come in this area by both the Adriatic highway (A14), or following the Tyrrhenian coast (A1) and then crossing Appennin mountain (A16). Both ways offer incredible landscaping over the trip.

By train you can reach Foggia, which is among the most important train stations in the south of Italy and it is well connected with the main Italian cities. Once you are in Foggia you can take local transports as well as rent a car, a motorbike or a bike to reach Foresta Umbra and other places in the pilot area.

By air you will arrive in Bari, which is the main international airport of the region and very well connected with European and International airports. From the Bari airport, you can take a train, a bus or rent a means of transport.

The sea is a really interesting way to arrive in Gargano, since you can arrive in Manfredonia port, which is very well connected in Mediterranean basin and it is a few Km away from Monte Sant'Angelo. Further, in this way you can come with your own means of transport.

HOW TO MOVE

Moving in the pilot area of Foresta Umbra, Riserva di Varano, Lago di Lesina and Isole Tremiti would require a certain freedom and independence, since natural, cultural and adventure attractions are spread all around the area and many of them are not accessible by public transport.

Therefore, having or renting a means of transport would be preferable for moving in this area, having the opportunity to live this place with your own ritmo.

For long walking and cycling lovers this would be an unforgettable experience, mixing nature, culture, spirituality and ancient traditions.

HOSPITALITY

This first pilot area offers the most important accommodation offer among the five. Here are almost 60% of the beds of the five pilot areas. In this area both the type and the category offer is very varied,

ranging from B&B to hotels of all grades, residential hotels, touristic villages and camping, for sure. The latter accounts for almost half of the total numbers of beds.

# of Beds	N.C.	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	TOTAL
B&B	1.234						1.234
Camping		528	3.835	22.469	3.015		29.847
Farm holidays	591						591
Holiday houses	7.036						7.036
Hotels		304	476	4.343	5.804	559	11.486
Rent-rooms	582						582
Residential hotels			410	1.259	980		2.649
Touristic villages			2.129	13.242	3.181		18.552
TOTAL	9.443	832	6.850	41.313	12.980	559	71.977

Murgia – National park of Alta Murgia

HOW TO ARRIVE

Parco Nazionale dell'Alta Murgia covers the inland in the middle of the region. It is 40 Km away from Bari, therefore it is perfect to come by airplane in Bari Palese and move into the National Park with a rented means of transport. Due to the fact the National Park is a naturalistic area, it is not easily accessible with public transport, so having your own or rented means of transport is suggested for reaching the several incredible attractions all over the area. Otherwise, for hard

adventurers walk the dense "rete dei cammini" crossing the Park will be an unforgettable experience, for sure.

If you would come by train, there are important train stations nationally connected on the Adriatic coast, such as Bari, Trani, Barletta. Then you can use the internal local railway network to arrive in one of the 13 municipalities belonging to the PNAM.

The closeness to the Adriatic coast and its important ports make it possible to reach this area by sea, arriving in the ports of Bari, Barletta or Molfetta.

HOW TO MOVE

As for the Gargano pilot area, Parco Nazionale dell'Alta Murgia would require a certain freedom of movement. Even though 13 municipalities are part of PNAM, none of them has the urban area within the park borders and only four of them are very close to the park borders (Cassano delle Murge, Santeramo in Colle, Altamura and Gravina in Puglia). Due to that, only a few points are covered by public transport, which is mainly by bus. So, also in this case soft mobility is the first suggestion for moving into the area, otherwise moving with your own or rented means of transport would be also a valuable option.

HOSPITALITY

Murgia has the lowest accommodation offer among the selected pilot areas. It has less than 10% of the number of beds of Gargano. This poor offer reflects also in diversity, in terms of type and category. Despite the poor numbers, there some diamonds spread in the park, which are Masserie, old farm structures, renovated as hosting spaces. Some of them are very luxurious. While, for low budget trips, the hostel solution would be very interesting.

# of Beds	N.C.	2*	3*	4*	5*	Cat.1	TOTAL
B&B	1.271						1.271
Farm holidays	1.064						1.064
Holiday houses	181						181
Hostels						74	74
Hotels		47	475	1.054	16		1.592
Rent-rooms	471						471
TOTAL	2.987	47	475	1.054	16	74	4.653

Taranto & Gravine – Natural Regional Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto

HOW TO ARRIVE

The Regional Natural Park Terra delle Gravine of Taranto can be reached by various ways. First, you can arrive by plane in Bari or Brindisi, the last is the closest airport to this area. Maybe the most suggestive way to come in this area is by sea, so that you can cross the big Ionic gulf and arrive in the port of Taranto, one of the most beautiful ports in the Mediterranean basin. Once in Taranto enjoy the city and its famous mussels!

Another way to arrive in this area is by train arriving in Taranto and then moving with local trains among the cities in Park, otherwise you can arrive by car using the highway till Taranto and use the local roads.

HOW TO MOVE

The Parco Naturale Regionale Terra delle Gravine di Taranto covers XX municipalities, many of which covering the urban area, too. Do to that it will be

possible to move by public transports in this area, mainly by bus. Further, you could move in specific and natural areas with local organizations involved in experiential and adventure tourism. For sure, moving independency will be the best choice for this kind of area, as for Murgia and Gargano. Bike and hiking will give you the opportunity to enjoy the landscaping changing by your own time.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality offer in the area of Gravine Ioniche is on the average among the selected pilot areas. Non-categorized solutions have an important offer share, while camping a very poor one, since most of campings are on the Ionic coast. Note of interest for high spending tourists, five stars luxury hotels will be available in unbelievable locations.

# of Beds	N.C.	2*	3*	4*	5*	5*lux	TOTAL
B&B	1.432						1.432
Camping			404				404
Farm holidays	751						751
Holiday houses	806						806
Hotels		68	356	6.943	758	44	8.169
Rent-rooms	484						484
Residential hotels			75	752			827
TOTAL	3.473	68	835	7.695	758	44	12.873

Torre Guaceto – WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto

HOW TO ARRIVE

Torre Guaceto is situated on the Adriatic coast of Puglia, a few Kilometers away from Brindisi. This makes this place easily reachable by air, sea, train or road due to the closeness to this very well-connected city since ancient times. Brindisi is the second international airport of the region in terms of arrivals and flies, one of the most important train stations of the region and the third port of the region, with intense commercial, touristic and industrial trades, facilitated by a good highway and roads connection.

Once arrived in Brindisi, you can move both independently with your means of transport or by renting one, as well as by contacting private transport service which will transport you directly in the WWF Oasis of Torre Guaceto.

HOW TO MOVE

The protected area is 10 Km² extended, so it will quite easily move in. Further in this pilot area you can move only with sustainable means of transport, therefore it would be a great moment for a bike tour, a hiking and trekking trip through the Mediterranean bush and the coast or still a horseback-riding within the area.

HOSPITALITY

The table below shows the accommodation offer not just for Carovigno, but also for Brindisi and San Vito dei Normanni. We do that since the other two municipalities are very close to Carovigno and both are parts of the management entity of the Park. The hospitality offer is over the average of other pilot areas, considering the low extension involved.

# of Beds						
	N.C.	1*	2*	3*	4*	TOTAL
B&B	631					631
Camping			30	1.643	801	2.474
Farm holidays	302					302
Holiday houses	397					397
Hotels		20	31	1.377	2.573	4.001
Rent-rooms	153					153
Residential hotels			276	298	64	638
Touristic villages				974		974
TOTAL	1.483	20	337	4.292	3.438	9.570

Otranto-Leuca - Natural Regional Park of Otranto-Leuca coast and Bosco di Tricase

HOW TO ARRIVE

This pilot area is in the south east coast of the region, just below Brindisi. Therefore, if you want to arrive by air you can fly to Brindisi and move to the south. Maybe the most suggestive solution would be to arrive by sea with an independent means of transport and move all along the coast by sea. For sure you will not forget it.

Instead, it will be not so easy to arrive by train in this area, since national lines go to the internal area to Lecce, while it would be quite easy to arrive by road, using highways and the dense local network of roads.

HOW TO MOVE

This pilot area is a coastal Park, developing all along the south east coast of the Region. Therefore, as suggested in the previous chapter, it will be an unforgettable experience to move by your independent boat all along the coast, having the opportunity to visit the several coast caves, to watch the sunrise on the Adriatic sea, and sunset on the wonderful local towns. Further this area has numerous small touristic ports, which will be perfect for taking a break to your trip. If this would not be possible for you, Hiking and biking this area would be a great experience too, also considering the land is pretty flat, making it accessible for many.

Moving with public transport will not be so easy in this pilot area, being possible mainly with buses. Therefore, it would be preferable to move independently, so having the opportunity to move all along Salento and visit other incredible places.

HOSPITALITY

The park of Otranto-S.M di Leuca is the second pilot area in terms of accommodation offer in absolute values and the first if we normalize them by extension. The variety of typology and category of hospitality is very wide,

covering all the hotels' grades and most of the accommodation types. For those who are looking for a very authentic hosting experience, try to search among residential hotels in the inner land.

# of Beds	N.C.	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	TOTAL
B&B	1.465						1.465
Camping		320	160	4.158	144		4.782
Farm holidays	2.171						2.171
Holiday houses	2.181						2.181
Hotels		14	146	3.075	3.304	190	6.729
Rent-rooms	575						575
Residential hotels			30	489	397		916
Touristic villages					406		406
TOTAL	6.392	334	336	7.722	4.251	190	19.225

3.2. Services & Experience

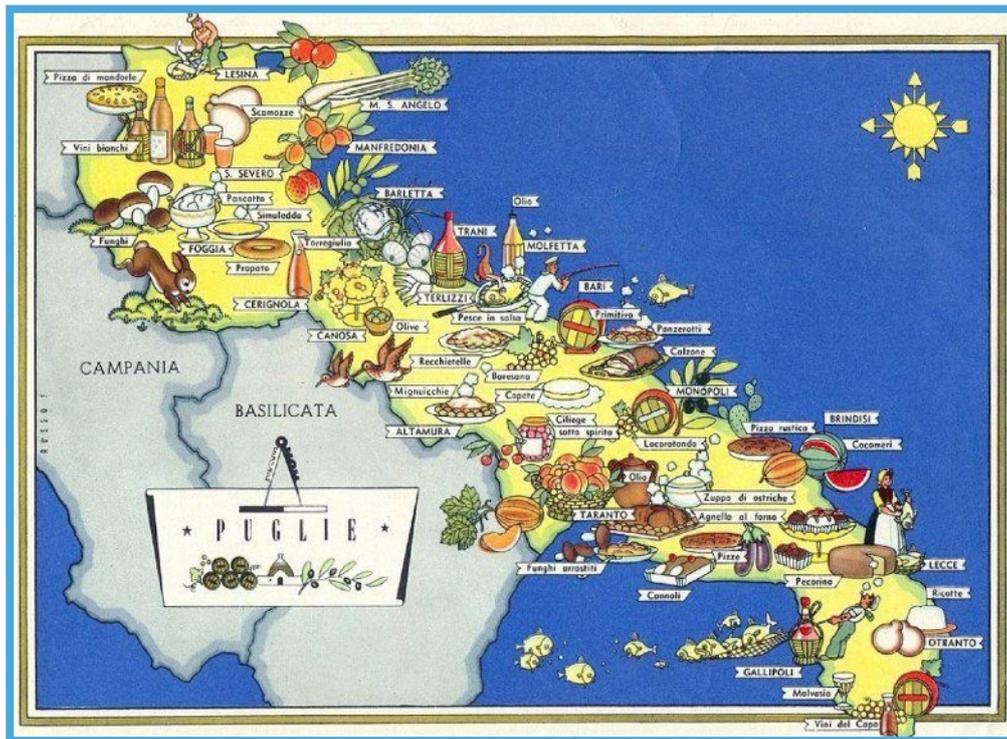
In the last 10 years Puglia Region made a strong effort for building a comprehensive and strong connected hospitality ecosystem for improving the visitors experience in Puglia. Further, in the last 5 years the touristic-cultural ecosystem vision become a political priority for the region, with the purpose to link touristic economy and culture production for benefiting each other: on one side touristic economy would bring potential customer to the culture, on the other culture industry would provide the contents and attractors for touristic customer.

Going on this way the border among one sector and the other disappears, going towards an unique ecosystem which takes care of the entire visitor's experience journey.

Members of this ecosystem covers a wide range of sectors and entities, which are:

- **Web & social experience and planning info:** The main tourist information website of Puglia is <https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/> and it is publicly owned and managed by Puglia Region. The online presence of the Puglia region strongly increased in the last two years, thanks to a mirate communication strategy launched by the DMO, reaching +200 million social interaction and 1 million likes on region-related pages. Do to that it will be immediate to figure out your Puglia experience, as well as remember yours, once made.

- **Restaurants:** For sure, there is no Puglia without food. Many people coming to Puglia associate and remember different areas of the region linking them to their food experience. Below is one of the many food-maps of the region. Therefore, you can join one of the many small family owned restaurants along the region, which take care and innovate the long culinary local traditions. In the last 5 years, the interest in culinary innovation and gourmet cuisine is strongly increasing, the result is a higher quality level of the sector and more unforgettable food experiences.



- **Local food production companies:**

The local apulian food production is impressive, thanks to the wide biodiversity and climate of the region, as well as regional ancient traditions. We identify three main product categories: grain-related food, where are the numerous bread traditions (such as Altamura, Laterza and Monte Sant'Angelo), apulian focaccia and pasta productions (such as the so famous "orecchiette"); dairy products, with unforgettable mozzarella, caciocavallo, pecorino and canestrato cheese; vegetable-based products with fruit, grapes, tomato sauces, vegetable preserves, olives and so on.

- **Wine producers:** 60 years ago Puglia had more than 200 varieties of grapes, mainly used for wine production. The most productive and market-requested varieties had been selected over economic boom years, being today the

20% of original varieties. Anyhow, the apulian wine production has gained an important market presence and recognition over the years, with 39 local high-quality certifications covering almost 30% of total production, 870 Km2 of vineyard extension and almost 500K liters production. The interest in and identity of wine strongly increased, as for the road of wine which connects the wineries in the region.

- **Olive oil producers:** The "green gold" maybe is the iconic product of the region, as well as the olive tree is the iconic plant. We are talking of more than 60 million plant (almost one per Italian inhabitant), covering more than 2.000 Km2 of extension, with 80 varieties which makes the first Italian region for olive biodiversity. These numbers reflect also in olive oil production with 350K tons of olive oil, which is the 60% of entire national production.

- **Tourist offices and visitor centers:** All along the region are several tourist offices and visitor centers, which are mainly public owned and managed. They are in the strategic points and attractions of the region and they will provide you all the information for best enjoying Puglia. But, the most effective information networks in Puglia are the small market, restaurant and local activities, who will give info you cannot find on the web. So, just try it.
- **Travel agencies:** For those who like to have a very organized trip and experience niche attractions being helped by apulian travel agencies would be the best solution. Further, many experiential tourism startups have come to market in the last years, providing innovative solutions on that way.
- **Local craftsmen:** Local craftsmen are part of this apulian experiential ecosystem, providing both the opportunity to experience and even learn a little bit of their art, as well as wonderful objects you will be emotionally linked to. So, you will remember your apulian experience every time you see it.
- **Local guides:** Local guides and local guides' associations and companies are increasing over the past years, providing unique and valuable services to the visitor's experience. Further their professional training has improved and certified, with the aim to provide a more emotional and less academic experience.
- **Cultural and artistic organizations:** These organizations are providing the extra-value to this ecosystem, with their productions. Doing so, cultural and artistic experience is shifting from a nice-to-have asset, to a core attraction asset. For instance, it is the case of the regional festival network which is becoming a strong attraction for the region, collecting other services of the ecosystem and giving a strong contribution to touristic seasonal adjustment.
- **Transportation services:** the increasing number of foreign tourism brought an increasing need for transportation services, with a strong interest in sustainable mobility. Here are: private transportation services, rental cars and bikes, as well as for electric mobility.

All the five pilot areas are covered by the services above, with proper uniqueness as described in the previous chapter.

3.3. DMO and promotion entities

Specific destination management measures have been developed over the previous 20 years, in order to reach the strategic goals and fit region peculiarities listed in the introduction.

These measures refer to two main areas:

- **Geographical management:** in order to preserve and leverage attractivities and cultural peculiarities, the region have been divided in 5 destination areas, each with its own peculiarities, which are represented by the selected pilot areas:

- › **Gargano e Daunia:** It is located in the north part of Puglia region and it is the most environmentally variegate of the five destination areas. Here it is possible to experience: the forest of National Park of Gargano, the Sub Appennino Dauno hills, Ofanto and Fortore rivers, the plain of Tavoliere delle Puglie, as well as incredible deep rock and sand bays of Gargano costs and Tremiti islands, truly a earth paradise. Beside environmental attractions there are also: religious and cultural ones, such as San Giovanni Rotondo, Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo (UNESCO site) and Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Siponto with one of the most innovative examples of historical heritage and contemporary art integration with the Edoardo Tresoldi masterpiece.
- › **Puglia Imperiale:** This is the land where Frederick II Emperor left his major tangibles, among the provinces of Foggia and Bari. From

an environmental point of view this land is a smooth transition among the main landscapes within it: Murge's hills, Tavoliere delle Puglie plateau with thousand and thousand olive trees and the Adriatic coast. It is a naturally unique welcoming land, in fact, coming from the sea you can find: Trani with its romanic chatedral facing the sea, Castel del Monte (UNESCO site) the most famous Federician architecture and then the mystic Murgian landscape with many medieval sites. In this land you can experience an unique sunset at le Saline di Margherita di Savoia, the second biggest european salt flat with an impressive fauna diversity:

- › **Terre di Bari:** This is the land dominated by Apulian major city, Bari. Along the mediterranean bush coast are uncontaminated bays and medieval-based small towns such as Mola di Bari, Polignano a Mare and Monopoli. Public interest strongly increased over the past ten years, the film industry strongly contributed for that, making these places the set for numerous movies. Another factor contributing to that are extreme sport events such as the Red Bull Cliff Diving in Polignano a Mare. As the previous area, this land extends in the Parco Nazionale dell'Alta Murgia, where is also Altamura with its Federician cathedral.
- › **Magna Grecia, Murgia e Gravine:** Taranto, also known as the two seas city, is the major city of this land. Here are three main peculiarities. First there

is the historic and cultural heritage of this land with numerous Greek, Roman and Messapic archaeological sites. The second one is the environmental aspect of this land, with a mix of Murgia hills, carstic territory with canyons and the unexpected ionic coast which remind mythological tales. The last peculiarity of this land is Taranto itself, the city which dominates the Ionian sea, due to its historical relevance and its central position in Ionian gulf. Taranto has and hide several unexpected uniquenesses, some of them: greek, roman and medieval sites and architectures; the two seas in front of the city where a dolphins' protected area; the famous bridges; Aragonese Castle and the Natural Reserve "Palude la Vela".

› **Valle d'Itria e Murgia dei Trulli:** It is situated in the area among Bari, Brindisi and Taranto. Its strategic position helped the tourist flow of this land, very close to the two main airports. Among the regional areas it is the one with the lowest coastal length with only three towns. Operators turned this point on a positive perspective providing a high level slow tourism with high spending targets. In this valley you can enjoy the secular olive trees along the hills, relax and live the Apulian lifestyle in the Masserie (ancient countryside buildings), take part in numerous cultural events such as Festival della Valle d'Itria (the most important baroque music festival worldwide) or Locus Festival. The small towns in the valley are also a must: Alberobello with Trulli, Martina Franca, Cisternino and Locorotondo are some of them.

› **Salento:** Maybe the most known of the areas, it is located in the south of the region: the "heel of the boot". The hearth is Lecce sited in the middle of the area, it is well known for the baroque heritage, the so called barocco leccese. Two main examples are: Basilica della Croce and Saint Mary Assunta cathedral. It is possible to find architectures of this artistic style in the other small towns too. Naturalistic side is the key strength of this area. In fact, it is the unique part of the region which has both seas Adriatic on the east side and Ionic on the west side. For this reason the main tourist sector is the sea side one, even though other markets are rising over the past few years.

• **Destination Management Agencies:** are agencies funded for managing and promoting directly and indirectly Puglia Region as a destination. They are:

› **Puglia Promozione:** it is the Destination Management Organization of the region, a public agency founded in 2011 by the Puglia region government. Its vision is to promote Puglia as a sustainable destination, with a complex and integrated system leveraging tangible and intangible assets of the region. The goal is to become italian leader in the tourism sector by promoting local peculiar identities of the region, integrating private and public operators' actions, preserving high quality environment and enhancing the apulian lifestyle for both locals and tourists.

› **Apulia Film Commission:** this public agency has been funded in 2007 with the goal to promote the Puglia region

image by means of Film industry. The agency has a proper fund of +10 million euro, for financing movies, documentaries and video production in general running in the Puglia region. The impact of the work in the last year is important with +500 movies productions, +80 million euro of economic impact on apulian territory and +100 million euro of direct revenues in face of 23 million euro investments in the last 10 years. Several film festivals have been launched in the last 10 years, some of them: Bari Film Festival, Festival del Cinema Europeo, Festival del Cinema del Reale, Otranto Film Fund Festival, Registi fuori dagli sche[r]mi, Messapica Film Festival.

> **Teatro Pubblico Pugliese:** it is a consortium founded by public institutions in 1979, with the goal to develop and promote the culture of theatre, dancing, contemporary circus and music both with Puglia and abroad. The consortium ownership is of 52 municipalities and Puglia region and it accounts for almost 90 live show seasons, 72 spaces have been activated, +850 show and 180.000 spectators yearly. In the last years TPP increased its active role in the integrated cultural-touristic system of the region taking part in the main strategic projects, such as the Apulia Film Commission.

Also the private sector increased its apport to destination management, with aggregating and network services which help improving internal and external perception of Puglia Region as appetible destination. Anyhow, this sector is in the early stage phase and needs to mature and grow up in order to provide their contribution in terms of diversification and innovation, that the current public-centered system lacks.

3.4 Stakeholders

Stakeholders involved in the apulian experiential ecosystem are strongly increasing terms of variety, numbers, quality and economics. Private stakeholder had been deep-dived in the chapter of services and ecosystem, they are: Web & social experience and planning info sources, Restaurants, Local food production companies, Wine producers, Olive oil producers, Tourist offices and visitor centers, Travel agencies, Local craftsmen, Local guides, Cultural and artistic organizations and Transportation services.

Further are public or public-private stakeholders which have a leading role on the single sub-areas of the region, or part of them. Below we will focus with the leading stakeholders of the five pilot areas:

- **[GARGANO]** Ente Parco Nazionale del Gargano (www.parcogargano.it): it is a public organization, connected with the Italian Ministry of Environment. Its main goals are, on one side to manage the environmental protection of the park, on the other foster its touristic promotion on a sustainable perspective.
- **[MURZIA]** Ente Parco Nazionale dell'Alta Murgia: (<https://www.parcoaltamurgia.gov.it/>) it is a public organization, connected with the Italian Ministry of Environment. Its main goals are, on one side to manage the environmental protection of the park, on the other foster its touristic promotion on a sustainable perspective.
- **[TARANTO & GRAVINE]** Province of Taranto: it is the management organization, until the reorganization of the proper organization entities.
- **[TORRE GUACETO]** Consortium Torre Guaceto (<http://www.riservaditorreguaceto.it/>): it is a public-private consortium, made by the municipalities of Brindisi and Carovigno with the Italian WWF Association. Its main goal is to preserve and reestablish the natural ecosystem in the protected area, further it has the goal to promote and execute environmental education programs.
- **[OTRANTO-LEUCA]** Ente Parco Regionale Otranto-S.M. Leuca e Bosco di Tricase (<http://www.parcootrantoleuca.it/>): it is a public-private consortium, made by the municipalities covering the Park borders. Its main goal is to preserve the natural resources of the park and its administrative management.



4. CONCLUSIONS

Puglia boasts an inestimable heritage from a natural and cultural point of view, essential basis for the adventure tourism sector. The richness of biodiversity, combined with material and intangible heritage, together with the additional ingredient of a very active and dynamic cultural community, are key factors in ensuring that visitors have a wide range of experiences, at any time of the year.

The central location of Puglia, within the Mediterranean basin, is another crucial strength for the future of adventure tourism, as well as the Mediterranean climate of the region, which allows a greater distribution of touristic flows throughout the year, leading to more stable and distributed potential tourist revenues in a longer time, for the economic, cultural and environmental sustainability of the destination.

From the point of view of transport and infrastructure, Puglia is benefiting from an increase in international connections both for presences and for relations, which will lead to more and more constant cultural contamination and economic investment. Although, the internal infrastructure network should be improved, to facilitate the mobility of residents and travellers in a sustainable perspective, through slow mobility.

In the last five years, the Puglia Region has focused on the development of a unified strategic vision, providing itself with a plan for the tourist-cultural ecosystem. Today the effects are becoming increasingly tangible, making this vision a beacon for the future sustainable development of the region.

The Puglia brand has greatly improved in the last ten years both from the point of view of value and dissemination; it is now a brand not only linked to tourism and culture, but has broadened its scope to include the various aspects of the regional and social economic industry.

On a general level, because of the massification of consumption, tourism has become an economic phenomenon, an industry in all respects, with profits indirectly proportional to the quality of the supply of products; the convenience of profits has induced entrepreneurs not to innovate, not to invest and not to think in net with the others for offers of new services.

This has sometimes slowed the innovative production processes both in business management and in the creation of new services in line with market trends.

Over time, mass tourism has led to a constant anthropization of macro and micro destinations and environments, in some cases without interruption. The results were a gradual loss of authenticity of the places, an increase in their carrying capacity and, sometimes, an aversion of residents to tourists.

Even if in recent years the consumer habits have been changing, the sustainability approach and the patterns of the circularity economy will take time to settle in the mindset and in the behavior of residents and tourists.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic will be felt for a few years, due to the difficulties of moving between regions and states and the complex arrangements for managing flows and providing services.

The tourism sector – strongly linked to mobility – has been one of the economic sectors worst affected by Covid 19, despite the continuous growth of data in recent years, although the events of 2020 have highlighted how to get resilient to the crisis and to undertake a gradual recovery toward pre-crisis levels with innovative approach.

The smart-working, imposed on most employees of companies, has changed work habits and many small cities in the South have benefited from a return to the origins of their citizens away from home, together with other professionals who have chosen the tranquility, climate and lifestyle of the South to work at a distance, offering an opportunity to the territory of considerable importance from an economic and social point of view.

The new tourist trends dictated by the pandemic are increasingly oriented towards experiences in contact with nature, preferring the wide spaces and the search for escape, even alone, in pairs or in small groups, thus benefiting from activities related to adventure tourism. They will be these new opportunities for development both from the territorial and economic point of view, for the enterprises that will have the strength to reinvent themselves or to change their own range of action adapting it to the new requirements of the market.

The tourist sector has to tackle a great challenge: the significant public resources planned by the government can allow to design a DMO strategy:

1. to facilitate innovation in the tourism sector and to stimulate the entrepreneurial ecosystem to improve and develop the quality of new products and services;
2. understanding the impact of tourism on communities

INTERNAL FACTORS

DETRIMENTAL TO ACHIEVING THE GOAL	STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural and cultural Heritage Sites spread on territory• Magnificent Castles, churches and ancient villages• Visual experience for aesthetic quality of the landscape (beautiful architectures and panoramic views)• Great combination of nature and landscape with culture and heritage• Good cuisine & great culture of food• Romantic and relaxing atmosphere• Shopping site• Brand "Puglia"• Good quality of supply chain	WEAKNESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weak entrepreneurial collaboration between tourism sector and other industries• Low ICT innovation attitude• e Low collaboration for business networks• Low ability to move around without car rental• Lack of foreign speaking staff

EXTERNAL FACTORS

DETRIMENTAL TO ACHIEVING THE GOAL	OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adventure and Experiential tourism trend• Brand lovers and growth international tourism in Puglia;• Majority of independent travelers• Surprise as one of the main feelings• Public investments• EU policies and cooperation investments	THREATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covid-19• Mass & seasonal tourism• Growth of Authentic and innovative destinations• Cutting-the-edge tech innovations• Uncertainty about Economic crisis

APPENDIX

Impact of Covid-19 on touristic sector and measures to help the industry

As for the entire world, Covid-19 strongly affected the tourism industry in Puglia. The effect of coronavirus lockdown and reduction in travelling are not yet completely measured. On a global perspective we are talking of a – 40% revenue in 2020 for the entire ecosystem. This data overperform national average and other Italian regions, thanks to a strong rising of presences in the month of August for the internal National market. This phenomenon has been facilitated by a national measure to encourage internal tourism, with a direct bonus for travelers for touristic services.

Even though this measure and the peak of presences in august permitted to avoid the soon disruption of the industry, it is not enough to throw away the shadow of an unprecedented crisis for the tourism industry and the entire apulian experiential ecosystem. On the work market perspective, there are no contraction effects thanks to national investments for holding on to the workforce, while covering the work cost of the companies (cassa integrazione).

To stem the effects of this running crisis Puglia Region worked for ensuring proper measure for the ecosystem actors, which are summarized below:

- **Riapriamo in sicurezza:**
<https://www.regione.puglia.it/web/turismo-e-cultura/-/emergenza-covid-19-riapertura-delle-attivita-turistico-ricettive>
This first measure had the goal to reactivate the industry after the lockdown, therefore clear and simple guidelines had been shared, as well as investments for helping the actors of the industry to easily adopt sanitary guidelines for running their activities.
- **Custodiamo Turismo e Cultura**
<https://custodiamoturismocultura.regione.puglia.it>
This is a specific measure for the cultural-touristic ecosystem, with the goal to cover fixed costs of the companies of the two industries, with a non-repayable 50 million Euros investment.
- **Accanto alla Cultura**
<https://www.regione.puglia.it/web/la-puglia-accanto/accanto-alla-cultura>
This is a portfolio of measures to help the cultural industry, which ranges from facilitating the credit access to partial-repayable loans, from extended deadline for grants, to specific new grants with low co-financing rate.
- **Accanto al Turismo**
<https://www.regione.puglia.it/web/la-puglia-accanto/accanto-al-turismo>
This is a portfolio of measures to help the tourism industry, which ranges from facilitating the credit access to partial-repayable loans, from extended deadline for grants, to bonus for the wedding travel industry.

5. RESOURCES

1. <https://www.agenziapugliapromozione.it/portal/>
2. <https://www.viaggiareinpuglia.it/>
3. <https://www.regione.puglia.it/>
4. <http://www.unesco.it/>
5. <https://www.teatropubblicopugliese.it/>
6. <http://www.apuliafilmcommission.it/>
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