A NETWORK COMMITTED TO THE PROMOTION OF UNEXPECTED PLACES OF HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES
A journey through an array of Italian gems, classified as UNESCO heritage sites, and at the same time an exploration of the beautiful and delicious products of our country, aptly promoting an abundance of wealth which is not always sufficiently appreciated.

The spirit and objectives of Mirabilia are found in this “simple” proposal, namely the setting up of a network of as yet little-known UNESCO sites and together with them local areas with their own characteristics and histories. A unique and outstanding “package” of offers that links places, histories, traditions and different products from the North to the South of Italy.

All very different realities, which, thanks to the Mirabilia network and to 16 Chambers of Commerce, are experimenting with a new way of marketing themselves. Whilst the individual destination may be of outstanding value worldwide, it is the entire local area along with its tourism facilities and its hospitality that is enhanced and linked to other places and destinations belonging to the Mirabilia network.

This year the International Tourism Exhibition and Mirabilia Food&Drink are taking place in the beautiful town of Matera, the European Capital of Culture, where the idea of the Chamber of Commerce network of UNESCO sites was conceived in 2012.

Once again, for the 8th consecutive year, local entrepreneurs working in the tourism sector and selected buyers coming from around 30 foreign countries will meet in Matera to seize the unique opportunity to meet up and establish useful economic relations for local development.

Mirabilia Food&Drink, which specifically targets the agro-food sector, will take place on the same day as the International Exhibition of Tourism. Organised in partnership with the Italian Trade Agency, this event is reserved for Italian entrepreneurs of the sector and has been designed to promote and increase appreciation of another Made in Italy symbol - the Mediterranean diet.

This initiative is a great opportunity for the country and for companies alike and the Chambers of Commerce, as the last mile for businesses, will support them in connecting national and regional policies with local production systems, thus enhancing expertise in tourism and culture.

Carlo Sangalli
Presidente Unioncamere
ABOUT US

➢ It is a project born in 2012. In 2017 it becomes the National Association MIRABILIA NETWORK.

➢ A project that sees the enhancement of a cultural resource as a strategic lever to generate economic opportunities in the area.

➢ It brings together 16 Chambers of Commerce and as many UNESCO and Unioncamere sites.

➢ From this grounds, it became a network between the UNESCO recognized areas for their uniqueness, with the main objective of showing them to an increasingly attentive and demanding international public, that goes towards a high quality cultural tourism.

➢ It is a project born in 2012 that in 2017 has become a National Association.

➢ Mirabilia has created a new relationship between these unique places, presenting an integrated tourist offer of the UNESCO territories that are less subject to the great tourist flows in order to make visible and usable the connection of heterogeneous territories, united by the uniqueness of being Heritages of Humanity.

➢ It promotes the lesser-known destinations, ‘jewels’ and territories united by the UNESCO recognition.

➢ Building up the system through the network of the Chambers of Commerce allows and sustains the enhancement and the promotion of the many territories, of the UNESCO sites, the promotion of the offered services, the business opportunities linked to cultural tourism, logistics hotel markets and increase their quality, up to the unique creation of tailor-made integrated tourist packages, to connect the many destinations of “Mirabilia”.

➢ It holds the presentations of the many differences that build up the enhancement of a territory, between history and culture, tradition and innovation, artistic craftsmanship and food and wine.

➢ It uses an “interconnected” language to promote new cultural and experiential tourism and to propose sustainable excellence itineraries.

In collaboration with
THE PARTNERSHIP
THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE FOR THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL TOURISM

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Many paths lead to Bari - it can be reached by road, air or sea. The town shows strong historical features and a lively economic environment. Just enjoy its cathedrals, churches, castles, walls, trulli, manor farms, dolmens and factories, manufactures, craftsman laboratories... they are all part of the urban and suburban landscape and embody the successful eastern union between talent and entrepreneurial attitude.

From the countryside to the sea: look at the “nel blu dipinto di blu” (in the blue painted blue), this is Volare sung by Domenico Modugno - he was born in the beautiful town of Polignano a Mare - and the white patterns of the rose windows of Romanesque cathedrals, these two colours are the perfect embodiment of this land. Water and stone are the foundation stones of a “liquid” society, a welcoming society, which is also a “solid” one and wants to protect its rural peculiarities that have been transformed into traditions and customs, even culinary ones.

UNESCO included Castel del Monte in its World Heritage Sites List in 1996. The reason why Castel del Monte was included is “its exceptional universal value, which is shown by the perfection of its architecture... A unique medieval architectural masterpiece, which symbolizes the humanism of its founder: Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor”.

In that same year, the Bari area and its beauty were honoured again by UNESCO. The Trulli in Alberobello became a UNESCO World Heritage site, because “they are an example of buildings dating back to pre-history time, which survived over the centuries, even if they have constantly been in use up to the present day”.

1. Castel del Monte (UNESCO site since 1996)
2. Polignano a Mare
3. Trani Cathedral
4. Alberobello’s Trulli (UNESCO site since 1996)
5. Mola di Bari, seaside and castel view
6. Rose window of the Bari Cathedral
7. Bari, San Nicola Church
8. Bari, night view
1. Walk through the historical town of Bari and along the city walls. Your afternoon snack will be the typical focaccia baked in the bakeries located in the narrow alleyways of the town. Visit the Cathedral, the San Nicola Church and the Svevo Castle. The best way to end the day will be walking by the seaside and dining in a typical restaurant.

2. You’ll visit Molfetta and its San Corrado Cathedral, a peculiar example of Romanesque and Apulian architecture. You will then enjoy a walk through the port. Then, you’ll visit the splendid Trani Cathedral which was built by using the local chalky tuff. In the afternoon, you’ll have the chance to have lunch in many restaurants by the sea, and your guided tour will accompany you to Castel del Monte, the XII century castle that was built by order of the Emperor Frederick II. It was used as a private home and a public residence.

3. Let’s go south: you’ll visit the town of Polignano a Mare and its overhanging cliffs, you’ll enjoy some local-made ice-cream (Polignano is famous for it!) in one of the cafés along the gallery. Then, you’ll visit the Trulli in Alberobello, the typical stone buildings that are still enriching and adding a monumental touch to the Apulian countryside.

Can’t Miss
The Alta Murgia park, Gravina, the coastal town of Bisceglie and Monopoli, Barletta, the Castellana caves, Conversano and Mola di Bari.

How to get here
Bari airport, Port of Bari (daily links to Greece, Croatia, Albania and Montenegro), Bari railway station.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI BARI
Tel: +39 080 2174452
Email: urp@ba.camcom.it
www.ba.camcom.it
Basilicata

Unexpected architecture in the karst basins and the treasures of the Pollino

A frontier town, a town of contrasts, competition and fusion between landscapes, civilisations and different cultures. From the Romanesque to the Renaissance and then the Baroque, eight centuries of building and enhancing the city, in an attempt to shape it and overcome the natural “opposition” of the pre-existing cave dwellings, thereby creating architecture and urban solutions which are absolutely unique. Human settlements in Matera date back to old times. The original centre of the city was, and still is today, made up of the Civita, where, on each side, in the two karst hollows, the marvellous Sassi developed. These groupings of dwellings became so complex that they eventually covered the slopes entirely, giving rise to one of the most incredible organised urban structures ever created in the world. A work of genius showcasing humanity’s ability to adapt and survive despite environmental difficulties. Matera is the European Capital of Culture 2019. With its 192,000 hectares, the Pollino National Park is the largest National park in Italy. Breathtaking panoramas, woods, rivers and plateaus follow one another on one of the most beautiful and characteristic of the Apennine massifs, wedged between Basilicata and Calabria, and between the Tyrhenian Sea and the Ionian Sea. Rising up from vast forests of beech, fir, maple, alder and the extraordinary Heldreich’s pine (a plant species which is a relic of the ice age and has become the symbol of the park), the wide summits leave us with a profound sense of wilderness, made stronger by the minimal and non-invasive human presence. Pollino can be visited all year round - in winter when its paths and plateaus become powdery cross-country skiing trails - in spring, when flowers explode into a myriad of colours - in autumn, certainly the most appealing season colour-wise, and in summer, when trekking, walking and mountain biking will lead you to discover one of the wonders of Southern Italy as well as one of the richest and most varied botanical universes in the whole peninsula.

1. The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera (UNESCO site since 1993)
2. Castle of Malconsiglio - Matera
3. Park of the Rupestrian Churches - Matera
4. San Michele Arcangelo Basil - Matera
5. Bike riding through the park
6. Pollino National Park (UNESCO recognition in 2016)
7. Alpine skiing inside the park
8. Pollino Park

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Arriving in Matera by afternoon and hotel accommodations. Visit the city center of Matera and have dinner in one of the typical restaurants of the Sassi.

Guided tour of the Parco della Murgia Materana: you will visit the Sassi di Matera, the Cripta del Peccato Originale, which is known as the Sistine Chapel of the parietal cave art, its frescoes are of Longobardic origin and date back to the IX century, and they are among the most ancient frescoes that you may come across in the Basilicata Region. Proceeding to Murgia Tirmone, the best panoramic area. You will then visit the cave art areas. In the afternoon you can visit the Santa Lucia alle Malve and Santa Maria dell’Itris rock churches and the extraordinary area of the Convicinio di Sant’Antonio. Leaving by late afternoon to Potenza, arriving and hotel accommodation. Dinner in one of the local restaurants.

Visit the tourist attractions and the area around Potenza: the Tibetan Bridge in Sasso Castalda, the zip line in Castelmezzano and the village in Pietrapetrosa. Then you can depart for the Pollino Nature Reserve for dinner and overnight staying in Rotonda (PZ), home to the Nature Reserve’s HQ.

Excursions and guided tours of the Pollino National Park area, which is rich in biodiversity. Depending on your level of fitness you can opt for excursions with different sightseeing opportunities and naturalistic characteristics. Mountain biking and horse-riding itineraries. A guided tour of the Lao river, where you can go rafting through its canyons. Guided tours to the villages located in the park as well as to the Natural History and Palaeontology Museum in Rotonda, where the restored remains of a specimen of an Elephas antiquus italicus dating back to the Middle-Late Pleistocene age (400,000 - 700,000 years ago) and other exhibits of fossils of other animal species are on show.
The Saint Sofia Church is one of the most beautiful and original religious buildings of Italian Middle Ages. The ancient façade of the church reminds the shape of a military Lombard tent. The stone drew-bell was built outside of the church, in a safety distance, because of the earthquakes that made it fall on the vestibule, in front of the entrance.

On the entrance door you can notice a beautiful bass-relief in the lunette. In the middle of a shining golden mosaic, there’s Jesus on the throne with the Virgin Mary and Saint Mercury at his sides. Also, there’s a character down on his knees that is supposed to be, by his crowned head, Prince Arechi the Second who, in 759 a.C., wanted the Saint Sofia Church to be built. The building became the “Sanctuary of Lombard people” in Italy. Inside, the aisle, once star-shaped and completely painted, is now geometrical ordered, and its circumference measures 23 metres and 50 centimetres. Walking from the centre of it, you can cross an hexagon with six columns decorated by ancient capitals, to a decagon of eight columns, each of them parallel to the corresponding perimetrical wall. The surviving frescos, that testify the oriental art influences, on the left, looking at the altar, represent episodes of San Giovanni Battista’s life (e.g. the announcement to Zaccaria and his dumbness for the Battista’s future birth); on the right, episodes of the Virgin Mary’s life (e.g. the Announcement and the Visit).

The ancient covering of the Church was supposed to be hut-shaped, based on the moving external structure. The cloister was a Benedectine nunnery and it was built up with the Church. The cloister has a squared shape (the square represents Jerusalem) and has a recess due to the trespassing of the connected church. In the middle of the place there is a well, protected by an ancient capital.

1. Saint Sofia’s complex (UNESCO site since 2011)
2. Traiano Arc
3. Rocca dei Rettori
4. Roman Theatre
5. Leproso Bridge
6. Garibaldi alley and Saint Sofia’s bell
7. Benevento Cathedral - inside view
8. Rocca dei Rettori - detail
Visit of Benevento’s historic center. Rocca dei Rettori is the symbol of different historical changes: from the sunnis to the romans, and then longboards. Next to it is the Acros Museum with findings of Iside’s Temple. In front of it there is the complex of St. Sofia. Sideways there are the Museum of Sannio and the Cloister. In the area there is also the Hortus Conclusus, an artistic installation realized in 1992 by the artist Mimmo Paladino. Going on you can find the Traiano Arc, erected in 114 AD, in honor of emperor Traiano. Next to it is the church of St. Ilario, of Longobardian origin.

Advancing into the center of the city you’ll find the Cathedral (5th century), famous in the Medieval Europe for its bronze doors (that were destroyed by the bombing of 1943; only a few tiles with holy images survived). On the right, going through the Sacrament’s Arch (an honorary arch built between the end of the first century and the beginning of the second century in front of the roman city’s Foro), you’ll arrive to Triglio, the heart of the new Longobard city, where San Gennaro was born. Next there is the roman theatre, built in the second century by the order of emperor Adriano and enlarged by emperor Caracalla. In the end there is Leproso Bridge (3rd century BC) and the Basilica of Madonna delle Grazie.

Tour of Benevento’s districts, a territory full of touristic, historic, artistic, cultural and natural attractions (Paleolab Museum — geopaleontological area of Pietrarroja, Taburno park, Fortore, Telesina Valley, Caudina Valley, San Pio land, wines and torrone sweets, etc.).
Caserta
*Terra Felix* ("Land of Happiness")

Caserta is a province of Campania region and corresponds to the part of territory that Romans called "Campania Felix" ("Happy Campania"). Caserta has very ancient origins. During the Longobardic Age (8th century), an urban housing unit still existed called "Casa Hirta" (in Latin, "Village on the Top") which became a modern town only in the second half of the 18th century, when King Charles III Bourbon asked to the architect Luigi Vanvitelli to plan and build his Royal Palace, made up of 1,200 rooms and 1,742 windows, 249 meters long and 37.83 meters high. The wonderful building extends over an area of about 47,000 square meters. In the same period, the Bourbons founded many other wonderful sites on the same area that will later be renamed "Terra di Lavoro" ("Land of Labour"): the Real Estate of Carditello and the Real Silk Factory of S. Leucio to be considered not only sites for the entertainment of the royal family, but very important places for the industrial development in the territory.

In fact, in 1856, at the International Exhibition of Paris, the Bourbon Industry was classified 3rd in the European industrial classification, after England and France. Nowadays, the province of Caserta, also called "Land of Labour", extends, from the seaside (45 kilometers of coasts) to the mountains, and covers a surface that is the 19% of the whole regional territory. With its three consortiums of Communes in mountain areas, three Regional Parks, three Natural Reserves and numberless sites of historical and artistic interest, it is an ideal destination for tourists that are fond of nature and culture.

1. The 18th century Royal Palace in Caserta with its park (UNESCO site since 1997)
2. Vanvitelli Aqueduct
3. Saint Leucio complex
4. Caserta Royal Palace
5. Caserta - Royal Theatre
6. Caserta Park and Pescheria Grande
7. Caserta Royal Palace - inside view
8. Caserta Park and the baths
Sightseeing in the city center of Caserta, with its typical restaurants.

Guided tour of the Royal Palace. It is situated at the center of the town, opposite to the Railway Station and not far from the tollbooth of Northen Caserta Highway. The Royal Palace, the biggest royal estate all over the world, will attract you with its historical rooms, its Royal Gardens, its English Park, the Bath of Venus, its Palatine Chapel, its Cryptoporticus, its Picture Gallery, the Throne Room and many other surprises. A small curiosity: in 1861, with the birth of the Reign of Italy, all the items and the furniture were registered. The “bidet” was so defined: “guitar-shaped strange object”.

Guided tour to the Royal Silk Factories of San Leucio, the Royal Aqueduct (“Bridges of the Valley”) and Casertavecchia (Ancient Caserta).

Can’t Miss
Casertavecchia, San Silvestro Forest, Vaccheria and San Leucio, Capuano Amphitheatre, Vanvitelli Aqueduct, Benedictine Basilica of S. Angelo in Formis, Roman Theatres of Sessa Aurunca and Teano, Site of Carditello.

How to get here
By car: Motorway A1 Roma-Napoli, Motorway A30 Caserta-Salerno.
By train: Railway line Napoli-Roma.
By plane: Naples airport Capodichino (NAP).

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI CASERTA
Tel: +39 0823 249111
E-mail: info@ce.camcom.it
www.ce.camcom.it
Crotone
Sila National Park

The lands in the province of Crotone belong to the Sila National Park, considered an important spot for the preservation of biodiversity by IUCN and WWF. The huge olive fields, the breathtaking landscapes and the big hearts of the inhabitants, brought UNESCO to declare these lands a World Heritage Site. In just a few minutes’ journey, you can travel from big shores and a crystalline sea to amazing hills and to the luxurious plant life of the Altopiano della Sila. The lands around Crotone are remarkable both from the naturalistic point of view (Marina Natural Reserve “Capo Rizzuto”, Calabria National Park, Vica geological area and Stuni) and from the artistic heritage (Capo Colonna Archaeological Park, Castle of Charles V, Sant Severina Norman Castle, Aragonese Castle of Le Castella), giving the possibility to visit these territories not only in the Summer, but all year long. You cannot miss to get in contact with gastronomy, wines above it all: they are produced by autochthon vines and they are labelled with important recognitions, such as D.O.C. and I.G.T. Other important products are bread, olive oil, sardella, cold cuts and cheeses. In the province of Crotone craftsmanship has a first-class position, above all the goldsmith art.

This province is a unique and charming territory: when you come here, you will remember it forever.

1. Le Castella - ph. Claudia G. Rubino
3. Ampollino - Sila Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO site since 2014) - ph. Sila National Park archives
4. Capo Colonna - ph. Massimo Cuomo
5. Foliage Silano - ph. Claudia G. Rubino
7. Ampollino lake - ph. Sila National Park archives
8. Sila National Park - ph. Sila National Park archives

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You will start your visit to Crotone, where Pitagora founded his famous school of knowledge. You will visit the National Archaeological Museum and the Castle of Charles V, fortress originally built in the 9th century to defend the city from Saracen raids, and then arrive in Piazza Duomo. We recommend walking along through the seafront and the touristic pier. Our suggested first day itinerary stops with a refreshing lunch in a farmhouse in the nearby. After lunch, you will enjoy visiting Capo Colonna and the sanctuary of Hera Lacinia, built by the Crotoniati in the 7th century B.C.

On the second day you will visit one of the most beautiful sections of the “Area Marina Protetta di Capo Rizzuto”: Le Castella, where one of the most fascinating castles of Italy rises. It was a refuge for soldiers engaged in the defence of invaders from the sea. Later we will visit Santa Severina, called by travellers of the past “the turrita city”. It is famous for its Castle, whose construction dates back to the time of Norman domination (XI century). On your way back home, you will pass by the Val di Neto (I.G.T.) where you can make a visit with tasting in one of the several winery of D.O.C. wines.

On the third day we suggest a nature trail that includes an excursion in the Sila Park and the Village Palumbo, located in the “Altopiano silano” on the southern shores of Lake Ampollino, an important ski locality equipped with efficient lifts for the practice of winter sports; there is a bobsleigh track, ice shovel and various centres for the rental of equipment. During the summer you can take a ride in the chair lift, to admire the panorama from above, or after June, cross the lake by typical boat called “pedalo”. The locality is well served by restaurants and trattorias to taste the local cuisine, bazaars and shops of all kind.

How to get here
Crotone S.Anna airport or International Lamezia Terme airport.
By train: Railway station of Lamezia Terme Centrale.
By car: Motorway A3 Reggio-Calabria.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI CROTONE
Tel: +39 0962 6634207/252/231
Email: promozione@kr.camcom.it
www.kr.camcom.gov.it
Genova

The buildings that welcomed guests in the 16th century

Genova has recently rediscovered its tourist vocation, which has roots in a distant past: from the Middle Ages and the 16th century - el siglo de oro - to the 20th century. It was a step-by-step rediscovery: from the Expo in 1992, with the reclamation of Porto Antico area and of the Aquarium; to the G8 Summit in 2001 and Genoa - European Capital of Culture in 2004; and to the inscription on the UNESCO - World Heritage List of 42 out of 150 existing local “Rolli” in 2006. Since the Middle-Ages, the aristocratic families of merchants and sailors used to settle in Genoa's ancient downtown, living in lots which were strictly controlled by the families themselves. In the 16th century, those families decided to build new streets and palaces, and they created that extraordinary urban heritage known as Strada Nuova: an elite district characterized by a modern public allotment system and a series of houses aligned along a 250-meters long straight street. The houses became real “republican palaces” where rich Genoese merchants, bankers and financial experts hosted emperors, kings and ambassadors.

A very innovative system was created: today, it would be called the “chate aux relais” system, as important guests were accommodated in private buildings, according to what was envisaged by a 16th century decree by the Senate of the Republic of Genoa, that established the “Rolli degli Alloggiamenti pubblici” (or lists of buildings for public accommodation, after which the site is named). The aristocratic families who owned the buildings were to welcome and accommodate the guests of the Republic of Genoa and were to bear all expenses. This innovative system based on widespread accommodation is now being rediscovered by tourists visiting Genoa; tour guides show people around the Rolli and spectacular events are organized, e.g. the “Rolli Days”. In addition to the Rolli, the 30 certified “Historical shops” are also being visited and rediscovered.

1. Tobia Pallavicino Palace, Chamber of Commerce, Via Garibaldi 4, Golden Room
2. Nicolosio Lomillo Palace
3. Via Garibaldi
4-5. Golden Room - detail
6. Portofino
7. An historical shop
8. Acquario di Genova
Visit to the historic city center of Genoa and its typical restaurants.

Tour to the town of Genoa with a short walk to the 16th century Strada Nuova - which is now known as via Garibaldi - and visit of a few of the 42 Rolli palaces: the Tobia Pallavicino and Lomellio palaces, Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso, the Giacomo and Pantaleo Balbi palaces, the Grimaldi Spinola di Pelliceria palace, which is the only one that still has its original furniture, and the Palazzo Reale Museum and its Sala del Trono, Salone da Ballo and Galleria degli Specchi (throne room, ballroom and hall of mirrors). Upon a previous request, there is also the possibility to visit the Crown Prince’s apartment.

Guided tour of the Palazzo del Principe: this is the largest and most magnificent aristocratic building in Genoa, where the monumental garden would host many royal events. Later you can visit the Acquario di Genova and the new Cetaceans Pavilion designed by Renzo Piano. After leaving the Acquario, a guided tour will show you around the 32 Genoa’s certified historical shops, a real architectural and cultural treasure, and you’ll also be able to buy excellent typical products sold in typical historic shops along the Medieval “caruggi” (typical Genoa alleys).

How to get here
Cristoforo Colombo International airport. Motorways: A12 along the eastern Riviera towards Livorno, A10 along the western Riviera towards France, connected to the routes Genoa-Milan (A7) and Turin-Aosta (A26, motorway “of the Tunnels”). Railway links to La Spezia, Imperia, Milan and Turin. Ferry boats to Sardinia, Sicily, Spain, Morocco.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI GENOVA
Tel. +39 010 27041
Email: camera.genova@ge.camcom.it
www.ge.camcom.it
The Aeolian Islands constitute a volcanic arch, created half a million years ago, when two tectonic plates collided causing magma to rise to the surface. There are still active volcanoes today: Stromboli, whose continuous explosions cause cascades of lapillus to fall on the “Sciara del fuoco” (fiery lava). Vulcano, whose last eruption was in 1888, known for the intense smoke activity along the edges of the crater. The submerged opening of Panarea’s crater is visible between the islands due to numerous fumaroles emitting magmatic gases.

The Aeolian Sea offers enchanting scenery, often only accessible by boat, among cliffs, reefs and with a seabed rich in biodiversity. There are beaches of rare beauty, such as Valle Muria and Acquacalda in Lipari, Bazzina in Alicudi, Le Punte in Filicudi, Cala Zimmari in Panarea, the Gelso, the Sabbie Nere (black sands) in Vulcano and Piscità in Stromboli.

A crossroad between history and legend, the islands are a stimulating destination for cultural tourism. Humans have inhabited the Aeolian Islands for 8,000 years and have shaped its landscape by creating impressive terraces, leaving traces of their presence not only with the Castle of Lipari - a monumental complex which hosts the important “L. Bernabò Brea” Regional Archaeological Museum, with its numerous relics from the Neolithic to the Byzantine era - but also in the perfectly preserved Bronze Age villages found on Capo Graziano in Filicudi, Serro del Capo in Salina and Punta Milazzese in Panarea.

To discover the Aeolian landscapes, there are numerous trails, ideal for hiking enthusiasts, which pave their way among the soft-leaved scrubland, coastal meadows, broom and Mediterranean brush, composed of mostly heather and evergreen bushes. The production of wine, particularly the vines from Malvasia and Corinto Nero, along with farming where capers are grown alongside other local products, give an unmistakable character to a gastronomic tradition that reflects a long history of “isole contadine” (farming islands), that also include the fishing of albacore, swordfish and prawns.

1. Stromboli
5. Salina - downhill on the beach of Pollara
6. Lipari - aerial view
7. Aeolian Islands: Lipari, Vulcano, Salina, Stromboli, Filicudi, Alicudi e Panarea (UNESCO sites since 2000)
8. Vulcano: typical fumaroles
1
Tour of Salina island and bathing in Pollara, winery visit with tasting and lunch at Lingua. Salina characterizes for the presence of an important natural reserve, from vast productions of capers and malvasia and for the organization of cultural events.

2
Excursion to Vulcano, walk to the Gran Cratere La Fossa and then bathing in the splendid setting of the Sabbie Nere. The island is characterized by volcanic events, much appreciated by tourists, who also go there to enjoy the therapeutic effects of hot mud and underwater fumaroles. Return to Lipari in the afternoon, with an island tour to enjoy the sunset. Typical dinner in one of the best-known restaurants of the historic center.

3
Visit to the Castle Fortress and the important Aeolian Archaeological Museum. In the early afternoon excursion to Panarea - with two visits to the main village and the prehistoric village - and Stromboli, where you may admire the suggestive night glow of volcanic eruptions, from the seaside or from 300-400 meters high.

How to get here
The closest airports are Fontanarossa in Catania (110 km) that is linked with public transportation and private shuttles working with the main Aeolian hotels; Reggio Calabria airport, which is more accessible in the summer thanks to hydrofoil links between the Aeolian Islands and Reggio Calabria.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI MESSINA
Tel: +39 090 77721
Email: cciaa.messina@me.legalmail.camcom.it
www.me.camcom.it
Molise

From the mountains to the coast through an uncontaminated environment

Molise is a mysterious land and it has extraordinary uncontaminated landscapes, environmentally protected areas and nature reserves, where there are many testimonies of Paleolithic settlements, archaeological remains from the Samnite civilization and Roman ones, to mediaeval monuments, towers, castles and towns. Molise has amazing traditions and cuisine is among them: what gives a unique experience is the true sentiment which animates the community, the jealously guarded customs and rites which are renewed at every patronal festival, convey the history of the community and mark its uniqueness.

The “Collemeluccio – Montedimezzo” Reserve was the first natural area among the 8 Italian sites, that was registered in 1977 as “Biosphere Reserve” of UNESCO’s “Man and Biosphere Program” (MAB). It encompasses two forests covering 638 hectares in a sub-mountain area, that are 15 km away from each other, and each one has its own geomorphologic and vegetation characteristic.

In 2014 UNESCO approved the enlargement project of the reserve, including also every one of the seven towns around the site: San Pietro Avellana, Vastogirardi, Carovilli, Pietrabbondante, Pescolanciano, Chiauci and Roccasicura, which are all part of Assomab Consortium.

1. Montedimezzo
2. Termoli
3. Campobasso - Mysteries
4. Agnone
5. Collemeluccio Reserve
6. Pulpit of 1223, in St. Maria’s Canneto Church in Roccavivara (CB)
7. Pietrabbondante
8. MAB Collemeluccio Reserve – Monte di Mezzo Alto Molise (UNESCO site since 1997)
Visit of the historic center of Isernia, all the way down to the “Fraterna” fountain and the Cathedral, then visit of the Paleolithic Museum. Transfer to the “Collemeluccio - Montedimezzo” reserve for the sporty ones, where it is possible to have guided tours and routes (also for visually impaired) and hiking. Moving then to Pietrabondante to visit to the archaeological remains.

Walk around to Agnone and visit to the most ancient bell foundry even known. Moving then to Sepino, a Samnite town, and visit of the Attilia’s archaeological remains.

Walk around the historic center of Campobasso that leads to the Monforte Medieval Castle. Visit the Provincial Sannitico Museum and the Mysteries Museum, collecting the instruments used during the yearly historical tradition on the day of “Corpus Domini”, in which actors are suspended in the air thanks to metal structures. Moving on to Termoli, it’s possible to visit Guardialfiera, Larino, Ururi and San Martino in Pensilis.

How to get here
By car: Motorway A1 and A14.

Can’t Miss
Venafro, Carovilli, Pescolanciano, Frosolone, Oratino, Riccia, Gambatesa and Civitacampomarano.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI MOLISE
Tel: +39 0874 4711
Email: promozione@molise.camcom.it
www.molise.camcom.it
The “Via Francigena” and its villages, waterways and rice paddies appears as a journey through time that asks to be visited and discovered. Its name dates to the 9th century, in connection to the French Kingdom. The need for the Longobards to connect Pavia, capital of the North Kingdom, to the ducats of southern Italy, along a secure connection, led to the birth of this itinerary. When the French defeated the Longobards, the road became the main link between northern and southern Europe.

The pavilion, 126.7 km long, stretches as one of the most spectacular stages of the journey between the countryside, villages and state-of-the-art landscapes, featuring the municipalities of Palestro, Robbio, Nicorvo, Mortara, Tromello, Garlasco, Cropaello Cairoli, Carbonara in Ticino, San Martino Siccomario, Pavia, Valle Salimbene, Linarolo, Belgioioso, Corteolona, Santa Cristina and Bissone and Chignolo Po. Pavia, a millennial city in the heart of the Po Valley, is surprising for the richness of the artistic heritage, which attests the ancient local history of the place, once called Ticinum. The Pavese, Lomellina and Oltrepô make this province a territory characterized by ancient castles, fortresses, rocks, suggestive villages where Romanesque churches testify to the territory as a crossroad of religious routes, rich of typical products of excellent gastronomy and landscapes of unforgettable charm.
Visit to the characteristic old town of Pavia with its main monuments: you will discover the Romanesque church of San Michele Maggiore, the church of San Pietro in Cielo d’Oro, the Broletto di Pavia, the ancient University. In the afternoon the visit continues to the Certosa of Pavia.

In the morning a visit to the Belgioioso Castle of Visconti, originated in the place they called “Bel Zo-issues”. The residence was built in the 15th century for hunting reasons. In the afternoon you will visit the Chignolo Po Castle, considered as the “Versailles of Lombardy”, with its elegant Italian garden.

Visit to the ducal longobard town of Vigevano, which welcomes the tourists with the harmony of the famous and elegant Piazza, created by Bramante through the Leonardo da Vinci contest. In the afternoon we will visit Robbio with its ancient monuments, such as the Romanesque Church of San Pietro (13th century), the ancient Church of San Valeriano (5-6th century), later expanded and rebuilt by clunian monks.

How to get here
By air: the city of Pavia is easily accessible from the airports of Milan Linate (58 km), Milan Malpensa (85 km) and Bergamo Orio al Serio (102 km).
By train: Milan-Genoa line.
By car: Motorway A7 Milan-Genoa (exit Bereguardo-Pavia Nord), A21 Turin-Piacenza (exit Casteggio-Casatisma and Stradella-Broni).

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI PAVIA
Tel: +39 0382 3931
Email: pavia@pv.legalmail.camcom.it
www.pv.camcom.it

Can’t Miss
The Miradolo Baths, Salice and Rivanazzano, the villages of Varzi and Zavattarello, Sant’Alberto di Butrio, Lomello and the ancient Baptistery of St. Giovanni ad Fontes, Breme.
Umbria has been for centuries a witness of the transit of proud populations of warriors, knights, artists and saints. The echoes of its glorious past are clearly present within the historic walls of towns such as Todi, Gubbio, Narni, Amelia, Assisi, Perugia (established by local valorous people), or Orvieto (a noble Etruscan citystate), or all along the ancient Roman via Flaminia. Nevertheless, the Middle Ages are the unique protagonist of the landscape of Umbria, with its fortified towns, its castles and abbeys.

Umbria is a “green region”, it boasts a lot of protected areas (Tiber River Park, the Park of Lake Trasimeno, Monti Sibillini National Park, Monte Cucco Park, Monte Subasio Park) and three Unesco sites. Assisi, the Basilica of San Francesco and the other Franciscan sites (2000) represent the cutting-edge of the Italian artistic genius surrounded by an extraordinary natural scenery which is able to recall a strong spirituality. The basilica of St. Salvatore in Spoleto and the Temple of Clitumnus in Campello (PG), are two excellent examples of the Longobardic art, within the circuit “Longobards in Italy: places of the power” (2011).

And once again, nature has contributed to create a wonderful atmosphere. In an area which is well-known thanks to its extra-virgin olive oil (Campello sul Clitunno and Spoleto are members of Associazione Nazionale Città dell’Olio, the national association gathering all the cities producing olive oil), it is possible to find out places of high historical and landscape interest such as Assisi Spoleto Olive Belt, the Sacred Wood of Monteluco or the marvelous Clitunno Springs.

1. Assisi, the Basilica of San Francesco and other Franciscan Sites (UNESCO site since 2000)
2. The Basilica of San Salvatore in Spoleto and Temple of Clitumnus in Campello sul Clitunno (UNESCO sites since 2011)
3. Spoleto, Basilica of San Salvatore (UNESCO site since 2011)
4. Perugia, Piazza IV Novembre
5. Spoleto, Basilica of San Salvatore – front view
6. Assisi, city view
7. Todi, historic center
8. Tempietto, other view
Visit of Perugia and its historical center.

Guided tour of Assisi. You will discover St. Francis’s places by visiting the S. Rufino Cathedral (XII century), Patron Saint of the town, and the Basilica Santa Chiara (XIII century) which is located where the ancient San Giorgio chapel was, the place where Francis was first buried. You will then visit the Chiesa Nuova, which was built in 1615 where St. Francis’s family home was and the Basilica San Francesco. The church was built where St. Francis’s grave is and is the center of Franciscan spirituality, it is an architectural masterpiece, proof of the best part of the Italian medieval architecture. Your guided tour will end by visiting Porziuncola at Santa Maria degli Angeli and the ancient little church of San Damiano.

Spoleto and Campello sul Clitunno. This tour starts in Spoleto, where you will visit the San Salvatore cathedral. You will reach the Rocca Albornoziana by escalator and visit the National Museum of the Dukedom of Spoleto. After that, you will walk through the historic city center and reach the famous Piazza Duomo. In the afternoon you will visit Campello sul Clitunno and the Clitunno sources and visit the water garden, sung by the ancient poets. Through the ancient via Flaminia then pursuance to the Tempietto.

MUST VISIT
1
Visit of Perugia and its historical center.

2
Guided tour of Assisi. You will discover St. Francis’s places by visiting the S. Rufino Cathedral (XII century), Patron Saint of the town, and the Basilica Santa Chiara (XIII century) which is located where the ancient San Giorgio chapel was, the place where Francis was first buried. You will then visit the Chiesa Nuova, which was built in 1615 where St. Francis’s family home was and the Basilica San Francesco. The church was built where St. Francis’s grave is and is the center of Franciscan spirituality, it is an architectural masterpiece, proof of the best part of the Italian medieval architecture. Your guided tour will end by visiting Porziuncola at Santa Maria degli Angeli and the ancient little church of San Damiano.

3
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Can’t Miss
Todi, Gubbio, Narni, Amelia, Assisi, Perugia, Orvieto, Trasimeno Lake, the basilica of San Salvatore in Spoleto, the Temple of Clitumnus in Campello sul Clitunno.

How to get here
Umbria International Airport - Perugia “S. Francesco d’Assisi” (www.airport.umbria.it).
A1 Motorway, European routes E45 and E78, Florence-Rome express rail link; Florence-Rome railway line; Foligno-Terontola railway line; Rome-Ancona railway line.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI PERUGIA
Tel: +39 075 57481
Email: urp@pg.camcom.it
www.pg.camcom.gov.it
S heer hills, fascinating fishing towns, the perfect mix of history and environment, the harmonized relationship between man and nature which has shaped a landscape of extraordinary scenic beauty, symbol of a traditional way of living: this is the harmonic union of man and nature that can be experienced in the La Spezia area.

This poetic spot at the easternmost point of Liguria region hosts the National Park of Cinque Terre and the Regional Nature Park of Portovenere: both of them, together with the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto) became World Human Heritage on 5th December 1997, thanks to their incomparable landscape beauty and to the uniqueness of the ecosystems they succeeded to protect.

The variegated tourist offer of the province of La Spezia also comes with the several circuits that start from the city of La Spezia and reach all the villages where museums, castles, fortresses, villas dating back to the Roman Age, geological areas, churches and sacred places let the tourists immerse into local culture and traditions, with the possibility to taste excellent wine and food, recalling taste and scent of the sea and the land which created them, and the wise hands that let them be unique. In the province of Savona can be found the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark - in which is included the entire surface classified as “Beigua Regional Nature Park” - that covers a total area of 39.230 hectares and involves the municipalities of Arenzano, Campo Ligure, Cogoleto, Genova, Masone, Rossiglione, Sassello, Stella, Tiglio and Varazze. The Beigua District features a rich and varied geological heritage, which well represents the various Earth Science disciplines and is particularly important to reconstruct the Italian peninsula geological history and to understand the evolution of the alpine chain. This geosite allows to enjoy different types of rocks, shapes and processes of great scientific value, and at the same time presents a particular aesthetic, divulging and educational significance.

1. Vernazza village, front view (UNESCO recognition since 1997)
2. Cinque Terre
3. Palmaria island
4. Portovenere village, front view (UNESCO recognition since 1997)
5. Lerici Castle
6. Portovenere village, Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto islands, aerial view
7. La Spezia - historic center
8. Val Gargassa - ph. Cristiano Queirolo
MUST VISIT

1. Visit to the city center of La Spezia and dining in one of the typical restaurants of the town.

2. Visit of the Cinque Terre (Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso) and Portovenere. This can be a hiking tour along the exceptional paths running through the Cinque Terre or you can take the train. For those who love travelling by sea, there’s the possibility of a boat trip that operates all year long and to enjoy the unforgettable landscape from a unique and privileged point of view. During the afternoon you may visit Lerici, its hamlet and the San Rocco oratory, the Saint Francis church and the impressive Castello di Lerici, where the geopaleontologic museum is with its dinosaurs remains.

3. Guided tour of La Spezia and Sarzana. You’ll visit the La Spezia historic center, the city Museum of Ancient Art and the Archeological Museum in the San Giorgio Castle. If you wish to visit another type of museum, you may choose to visit the Naval Museum - which La Spezia is very proud of - at the navy yard (Arsenale Militare). In the afternoon you’ll visit Sarzana, its historic center and Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Via Mazzini, the ancient Via Francigena, and Piazza del Comune. Your tour will end at the wonderful Fortezza di Sarzanello (Sarzanello Fortress).

4. Visit to Beigua Geopark, the largest protected natural area of Liguria which, involving 10 municipalities, tells the geological history of the entire region through rocky outcrops, mineralizations, fossil deposits and spectacular shapes shaped by time. Due to the exceptional patrimony it possesses, the district of Beigua became part of international networks in 2005 as European and World Geopark. In 2015 he was recognized as a UNESCO site and included in the list of UNESCO Global Geoparks. The area, ideal for lovers of water sports and excursions, offers events in all seasons: walks, workshops, sporting and cultural events are frequently organized in the company of park guides. For the two-wheel lovers there are two tracks on low-traffic paved roads: the ring of the SOL Valleys (Stura, Orba and Leira) and the Beigua ring. The opportunities there satisfy all tastes: from agritourism companies to hotel-shelters located in the heart of the protected area; from the typical bed & breakfasts of the countryside to the most luxurious accommodation facilities in the coastal towns. From the territory of the park it is possible to easily reach the main areas of interest in the province of Savona, both on the sea and inland.

Can’t Miss
City of La Spezia, Cinque Terre, Portovenere, Levanto and Bonassola, the fishing town of Le Grazie, San Terenzo, Lerici and Tellaro, the Regional Nature Park of Montemarcello, the Magra Valley, the Archeological site of Luni, City of Sarzana.

How to get here
By car (Motorways): A12 Genoa-Livorno, A15 Parma–La Spezia.
By train: Rome–Pisa–Genoa railway line.
By plane: Genoa and Pisa airports.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO RIVIERE DI LIGURIA
Tel: +39 0187 728232
Email: federica.bonanini@rivlig.camcom.it
www.rivlig.camcom.gov.it

Camere di Commercio Riviere di Liguria
Impresa La Spezia Savona

MIRABILIA NETWORK
Sardinia is a treasure to be discovered with its beauties, unique and different in every territory, as “islands in the Island”. Centuries-long stories and still alive traditions always give the visitors new and engaging experiences, such as the descent of candlesticks, the great feast on August 14th in honor of Madonna dell’Assunta. It is a religious procession that crosses the historical center of Sassari, tightening to itself the whole population in an event of great charm and involvement, among the most important in Sardinia. In 2013, UNESCO declared it an Immaterial Patrimony. The descent comes from the vow made to the Madonna dell’Assunta, who in 1652 saved the city from the plague. A vow that the Gremi, the ancient guilds of Arts and Crafts - Butchers, Blacksmiths, Piccapietre, Viandanti, Contadini, Carpenters, Ortolani, Calzolai, Masons, Tailors and Masons in Sassari in the Middle Ages - dissolve each year. Each corporation is identified by a candlestick, a huge wooden candle weighing 300/400 kg, carried on the shoulders and arms of eight bearers, under the direction of a chief candlestick.

The colors and scents that narrate the real Sardinia, burst on the penultimate Sunday of May with the Cavalcata, the most important secular party on the island: a parade of groups from different centers that gather the popularity of tourists and local traditions lovers every year. Finally, the uncontaminated nature and the unmistakable sea, represent the treasure of emotions that history, art and culture can instill to visitors every moment of their vacation.

1. Feast of the Chandeliers (Immaterial Patrimony of the UNESCO since 2013) – ph. A. Balestrieri
2. Santa Maria Church - Chandeliers - ph. A. Balestrieri
3. Sardinian ride – ph. A. Balestrieri
4. Feast of the Chandelier, detail – ph. A. Balestrieri
5. Chandeliers – Piazza Castello
6. Monte d’Accoddi
7. Traditional dances and costumes
8. Parade
Walking tour of the historic center of Sassari, where you can admire the Cathedral of San Nicola, Palazzo Ducale and Palazzo di Città, the center of the Descent of the Candlesticks, with a projection of the relative short film. History enthusiasts, however, can visit the G.A Sanna National Archaeological Museum in Via Roma. At dinner, we recommend tasting traditional recipes in a typical restaurant.

After admiring the Fountain of Rosello, we suggest leaving for the pre-nuragic altar of Monte d’Accoddi, unique in its kind. In the afternoon, instead, you could visit the Argentiera mine, site of the Sardinian Geominerary Park and UNESCO heritage. To end the day at best, you can do a tour of the beaches and the scenic spots of the Nurra coast.

If you are in Sassari on August 14th, you cannot miss the preparation for the Descent of the Candlesticks in the evening at the Gremi’ headquarters. From 6pm the real event will begin, starting from Piazza Castello, and continuing along Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Corso Vico, getting to the Church of Santa Maria di Betlem, where the vote for the Madonna dell’Assunta is dissolved in the night.

Can’t Miss
At 15 minutes from Sassari is the archaeological site of Sardinia Prenuragica, Monte d’Accoddi.
At 15 minutes from Sassari is the Basilica of the Holy Trinity of Saccargia, a Romanesque Pisan style church.
At 30 minutes the city of Alghero with its Catalan Gothic style buildings.
At 40 minutes from Sassari is the village of Castelsardo.

How to get here
By plane: Alghero - Fertilia airport (about 30 km away), Olbia - Costa Smeralda airport (about 120 km away)
On boat: Port of Porto Torres (about 20 km away), Port of Olbia (about 107 km away) Port of Golfo Aranci (about 125 km away)

MUST VISIT
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For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI SASSARI
Tel: +39 079 2008072
Email: cciaa@ss.legalmail.camcom.it
www.ss.camcom.it
South East Sicily

The marvels of a land waiting to be discovered

Tourism in South-East Sicily in the province of Catania, Ragusa and Siracusa is most important than in all other Sicilian provinces. A unique territory, characterized by the great beauty of the cities and their monuments, mixed with natural and landscape beauties, such as the amazing shores. The volcano Etna declared UNESCO World Heritage in 2013, stands out with its grandeur and beauty. Here, even food and wine production, which can certainly be defined as an absolute excellence, has a remarkable role.

Our area can give many possibilities to tourists who want to live a lifelong experience. The recognition by UNESCO of the treasures of the Val di Noto has further incentivized the motivations of an entire sector: now our facilities offer a variety of solutions, from 5-star hotels to Bed & Breakfasts, to simple rooms for rent, for every target of tourists.

This increase, tied to an increase in tourist flows, guarantees a solid structural basis to be followed by an appropriate promotion of the territory as a whole. It is therefore not to be missed the excursion on the Etna volcano defined by UNESCO as one of the “most emblematic and active in the world” volcanoes.

1. Etna volcano – ph. Piero Mammino
2. Catania Cathedral
3. Ortigia - Siracusa
4. Piazza San Giovanni and Cathedral
5. The late baroque cities of Val di Noto - Ragusa (UNESCO Recognition in 2002)
6. Taormina
7. Donnafugata Castle
8. Modica

mirabilianetwork.eu
You can’t visit the province of Ragusa without admiring the baroque beauties of Val di Noto, part of the UNESCO world heritage in 2002. You’ll find yourself astonished by the sites Ragusa, Modica, Scicli and Noto.

The worldwide famous series “Inspector Montalbano” was filmed in the area of Ragusa. Visiting Punta Secca, district of Santa Croce Camerina, you can see the home of the inspector while, if you want to feel the atmosphere of Vigata’s police station, you can pay a visit to the town hall of Scicli.

Do not miss the excursion on Mount Etna the highest volcano in Europe, in any season of the year with a guide that will make you appreciate the incredible naturalistic as well as landscape aspects of this “good mountain” or “a muntagna” as defined by its inhabitants.

You can’t miss a visit to Siracusa, one of the most beautiful Mediterranean cities. If you are short on time you can visit the historical center and the Ortigia island (whose name derives from the ancient Greek word meaning quail) in only one day. There are a lot of significant historical monuments, such as the Dome of Siracusa, the Apollo’s Temple, the spring of Aretusa and the calcareous cave named “Dionisio’s Ear”.

Can’t Miss
Donnafugata’s Castle, Church of S. Giorgio, Church of S. Giovanni Battista, Church of S. Giuseppe, Church of S. Maria delle Scale, Cosentini Palace, La Rocca Palace, Palace of Cancelleria, Portale San Giorgio, Bizantine’s Walls, Ponte Vecchio, Torre Cabrera di Marina of Ragusa, Site of fascist architecture (Piazza Libertà, Piazza Poste, Ponte Nuovo).

How to get here
By plane: Catania airport, dedicated to Bellini (45 min from Siracusa) or Comiso airport, on the Ragusa side, 5km from Comiso, 15 km from Ragusa or 90km from Catania.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DEL SUD EST SICILIA
Tel: +39 095 7361225
Email: segreteria@ctrgsr.camcom.it
www.ctrgsr.camcom.gov.it
Aquileia is one of the most important Roman archaeological sites in Northern Italy, inscribed in 1998 on the World Heritage List. The great Roman city, only partially excavated, presents the Forum, the River Port, the Decumanus, the Necropolis, the walls, the markets and vast residential complexes. The basilical complex, with extraordinary mosaics, was through history and still today, a center for Christianity. Cividale del Friuli welcomes its visitors with a panorama rich in history and refined architecture. From 2011, the most significant evidence of the Longobards in Cividale, namely the Longobard Temple and the Episcopal complex were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as "The Longobards in Italy, the Places of Power (568-744 AD)." Palmanova, recognised as a World Heritage Site in 2017 as part of the Venetian defensive works built between the 16th and 17th centuries, along with other fortified cities of Italy, Croatia and Montenegro. Technically it is a segment of a serial transnational site that is representative of an entire system of defense, designed and built by the Republic of Venice to control its territories as well as its commercial routes that extended from the Adriatic Sea to the Middle East. The unspoiled nature of the Dolomites Nature Reserve, with its extraordinary heritage of biodiversity of flora and fauna, merges with the fascinating traces of history to be found at Forni di Sopra. Since 2009 Dolomites have been included among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Palù di Livenza, located between the towns of Caneva and Polcenigo, represents a component of the transnational series of the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alpine area, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2011. It is an important wet site where a palafitte village developed between 4,300 and 3,600 BC, which saw three phases of occupation during the Neolithic with three different hut installations partially overlapping.

1. Patriarchal Basilica of Saint Maria Assunta, Aquileia (UNESCO site since 1998)
2. Palmanova aerial view (UNESCO site since 2017)
3. Dolomites (UNESCO site since 2009)
4. Dolomites (UNESCO site since 2009)
5. Palù di Livenza, aerial view from Molinetto dal Palù di Livenza - ph. L. Bert, APAB FVG Soprintendenza archives
7. Palù di Livenza (UNESCO site since 2011)
8. Duomo Dogale – Santissimo Redentore Church, Palmanova
Aquileia, the most important archaeological site in Friuli Venezia Giulia, presents us an extraordinary archaeological area with vast portions of the ancient Roman city and in its heart finds the Basilical complex, a religious center still in function, with wonderful Paleochristian mosaics.

Palmanova, a fortified star-shaped city, founded by venetians in 1593, “ideal city”, perfect example of military architecture. A still intact Fortress defended by three circles of walls and three monumental gates. Visit to the Cathedral, the Main Square, the Bastions Historical Park and the Venetian galleries. Following, the transfer to Cividale del Friuli and guided tour in the historic center of the I Ducal City which was the first Lombard Dukedom in Italy. Of true artistic value is the visit to the Longobard Temple and the Episcopal Complex, whose remains are preserved at the National Archaeological Museum and at the Christian Museum / Treasure of the Cathedral.

Forni di Sopra. The “Natural Park of Friulian Dolomites “, with its unspoiled nature, has the advantage of being suitable for hiking, thanks to thematic routes that will allow to discover its extraordinary heritage of biodiversity of flora and fauna, which in Forni di Sopra merges with the fascinating traces left by history.

In the humid area of the Palù di Livenza, which hosts an important Neolithic palafitte site, you will find archaeological and naturalistic trails that will guide you to visit the most beautiful and significant spots. All the marked trails are easy and relaxing walks and do not present particular difficulties. A visit at the Museo Archeologico of Friuli Occidentale, which houses the archaeological sites of the Palù di Livenza, can be associated by reservation.

Can’t Miss
Forni di Sopra: Sacuidic Castle and church of San Floriano; Roman Castrum of Cuol di Ciastiel; equipped areas for winter sport and for indoor- outdoor summer sports. Aquileia e Palmanova: medieval village of Clauiano; Strassoldo; Villa Manin of Passariano; Lignano Sabbiadoro, Oasis of Marano Lagoon, natural and protected natural reserve of Foci dello Stella Cividale del Friuli: Sanctuary of Beata Vergine in Castelmonte; Natisone Valleys and the renowned D.O.C. wine production area; San Daniele del Friuli: Dome of San Michele Arcangelo, the Guarneriana Library; the production area of the well-known delicious San Daniele Ham.

How to get here
Trieste airport, Friuli Venezia Giulia
Railway links with Trieste, Tarvisio, Venice, Milan and Rome.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI PORDENONE - UDINE
Tel: +39 0432 273111
Email: urp@ud.camcom.it - www.ud.camcom.it

MUST VISIT

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Ancient vineyards, small settlements, natural reserves run all along sweet hills, watching over a suggestive landscape with a unique miniature world characterized by different traditions and a thousand-years history. That is the Collio, a half-moon shaped hilly region, in the province of Gorizia in the north easternmost part of Italy between the Julian Alps and the Adriatic Sea. This small strip of land near the Slovenian border offers suggestive and beautiful foreshortenings: rivers, mountains, acacia woodlands, hills, vineyards and lagoons. This territory is deeply influenced by different but coexisting cultures, rich with historical and cultural heritage including marvelous castles and churches but also legends and poems written in different languages. The 1,500 ha vineyards of the Collio, between the Judrio to the West and the Isonzo river to the East, cover 8 out of 25 municipalities of the Gorizia area: Capriva, Cormòns, Dolegna del Collio, Farra d’Isonzo, Gorizia, Mossa, San Fioriano del Collio e San Lorenzo Isontino. The area consists of hills created during the Paleocene-Eocene era cut by narrow and small dales, excepting for the bigger Preval Valley. The development of high-quality viticulture and winemaking have benefited from the specific microclimatic conditions since the ancient times. The excellent white wines of the region are well-known for their mineral notes and lifespan. Four are the most world-renewed wine varieties native of this area: Malvasia, Ribolla Gialla, Friulano and Picolit. Furthermore, the Collio Bianco, produced by the assembling of different wine grapes, is the most distinctive wine of the whole area. Trieste is the Regional capital and it is a charming melting pot of different cultures and styles. Miramare Castle is the most representative symbol of the city and it is sited close to the Protected marine area of Miramare, which was appointed as Biosphere Reserve of Unesco’s Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
The best way to discover the Collio area near Gorizia is to travel along the “wine and cherries route”, leading from San Floriano to Dolegna. It is possible to visit the sites where the World War has left its bloodiest evidences, among them the Oslavia ossuary. Other traces and thematic routes dedicated to the World War can be visited all over the Carso upland. Gorizia and its history is highlighted by its streets, its parks, its middle ages, baroque and 19th century architecture.

Trieste, an international, multicultural and multi-religious city, recalls a small Vienna laying on the sea, with beautiful and elegant palaces built in baroque, neoclassic and liberty style. Trieste is a kind of unique and fascinating puzzle: among its pieces we can suggest San Giusto and Miramare castles, the Synagogue, the Greek and the Serbian Orthodox temples, the Lutheran and the Helvetican churches.

Grado, enriched with peculiar Venetian atmospheres, presents health centers and seaside resorts. Grado is not only a place for spending some wonderful relaxing days, but also the starting point for a tour along the lagoon and its protected areas of unique beauty.

How to get here
By air: Trieste airport, Ronchi dei Legionari (GO): 18km from Cormons, 28km from Gorizia, 54km from Trieste, 120km from Venezia.
By train: Gorizia and Cormons (GO) railway stations on the railway Udine-Trieste.
Other stations: Trieste Central Station, Monfalcone.
Other stations on the railway Venice-Trieste: Cervignano-Aquileia-Grado.
By car: Highway A4, exits Palmanova, Villesse-Gorizia, Redipuglia.

For more information
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO VENEZIA GIULIA
Tel: +39 040 6701111
Email: cciaa@pec.vg.camcom.it
www.vg.camcom.gov.it
Verona
“*The City of Love*” narrated by Shakespeare

Situated in the Veneto region in the north of Italy, Verona is a must-see city for those visiting the area. A stroll through its streets brings out an historical tour from Imperial Rome through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the periods of French and Austrian rulers, up until now.

In 2000 Verona was listed as a World Heritage site by the UNESCO Committee, as in its urban structure and architecture represents an outstanding example of a town that has developed progressively and uninterruptedly over two thousand years, incorporating artistic elements of the highest quality from each succeeding period. In the historical center Roman ruins, medieval vestiges, Venetian and Austrian traces can be seen all across the city, as well as antique palaces, squares, bridges and wonderful churches: Piazza Bra and the Arena, Piazza Erbe and Piazza dei Signori, the Roman Theatre and Ponte Pietra, Castelvecchio and Lamberti Tower, the Cathedral and the San Fermo Church.

Verona still lives its Shakespearean legacy, and it is possible to recall the main moments of the timeless love history of Romeo and Juliet strolling around the streets of the city. This is also why Verona is called “the city of love.” A key element of the city is the Arena, the third greatest amphitheater in the world. Built in the first half of the 1st century AD, this monument hosts various kinds of musical and theatrical performances: the opera season, concerts of the most famous singers, ballet exhibitions. The amphitheater has a perfect acoustic and it can host up to 22,000 people. Elegant cafés and ancient “osterie” (typical inns of the Veneto territory), craftsman shops and high couture shops enliven the city life all year long. Verona fascinates visitors with its elegance and its welcoming atmosphere, in which ancient and modern times meet.

1. City of Verona and the Arena (UNESCO recognition in 2002)
2. Peschiera del Garda (UNESCO heritage since 2017)
3. Venetian defense systems from 16th and 17th century: Stato di Terra
   Stato di Mare Occidentale
4. Ponte Pietra
5. Juliet’s balcony
6. Valpolicella
7. Torri del Benaco
8. Soave
9. Lessinia - Valle delle Sfingi

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Visit of the Arena, the Roman amphitheater located in the lively Piazza Bra. Visit of Piazza delle Erbe and Piazza dei Signori and Juliet’s house with the most famous balcony in the world. The path continues to the ancient Church of Sant’Anastasia, and ends in Castelvecchio, symbol of the Scaligerian Verona.

The Valpolicella hills, and the production of its wines and Valpolicella Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Valpolicella is rich in elegant villas which, thanks to the exterior architectural beauty and the magnificent examples of Italian gardens, are now considered milestones in the area. In the afternoon you may discover the Eastern part of the Province, starting with Soave, completely surrounded by the walls of its castle.

You’ll visit Peschiera, recently listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its Venetian defense system made by the Republic of Venice between the 16th and 17th century. Following the paths of the Riviera degli Olivi, you will discover the local fresh fish, extra-virgin olive-oil and wines. The tour may end in Malcesine, where the Malcesine - Monte Baldo cable car will allow you to fully appreciate the unique panorama of Monte Baldo and Lake Garda.

Can’t Miss
Lake Garda, the largest lake in Italy, the hills of Valpolicella and Soave, the Verona plains, Custoza, the fossils of Bolca, Mount Baldo and Lessinia. It is possible to visit the cellars of numerous wineries throughout the province in which the famous wines from Verona are produced (Arcole, Bardolino, Custoza, Carda, Lessini, Durello, Lugana, Merlara, Soave, Valdadige - Terradeiforti, Valpolicella, Amarone and Recioto).

How to get here
By air: International Airport of Verona “Valerio Catullo”
By train: Porta Nuova and Porta Vescovo railway stations
By car: The A4 Milan-Venice and A22 Brennero-Modena motorways

Per maggiori informazioni
CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI VERONA
Tel: +39 045 8085863-702
Email: turismo@vr.camcom.it
cciav.verona@vr.legalmail.camcom.it
www.vr.camcom.it
For the first time ever, this project links areas according to their historical, cultural and economic importance, assuring to visitors a different overview of Italy, away from the routes familiar to mass tourism.

A customized type of tourism on a more human approach, in which welcoming and attention to visitors are guaranteed.

The mission of the Mirabilia Network is to promote business as well as the quality of cultural tourism, reaching the places involved, the services and hotels available.

The project envisions the creation and selling of alternative itineraries that take place in one or more of the areas participating in this initiative.

The itineraries suggested in this section include those that relate to a single UNESCO site, as well as tours that encompass several nearby locations, that are part of Mirabilia’s territorial network.
**NORTH**

**VERONA | PAVIA**

**Day 1**
Arrival in Verona, guide tour of the city. You will spend your day walking by the Arena, the Archeological Museum, the ancient doors of the Old Town, the Ponte Pietra, Castelvecchio, the Arche Scaligere, the house of Juliet, the buildings realised by the architect Michele Sanmicheli, teacher of Andrea Palladio. His elegant masterpieces are all over the city. Dinner in a typical "osteria" on the Adige River. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

**Day 2**
Breakfast and visit of the Valpolicella hills, with wine tastings in one of the most renowned wineries of the area, accompanied by a light lunch. Free shopping afternoon in the city centre. Aperitif and dinner in a typical villa of the Veneto Region, tasting typical dishes.

**Day 3**
Food and wine tour of the city. You will walk in the city with an authentic Veronese guide. You will enjoy listening to different stories about the local cuisine and about some funny curiosities. After lunch in a typical restaurant, you will spend the afternoon going around little gastronomy shops and local markets. If you visit Verona during summer, you will have the possibility to take part to one of the amazing lyrical operas in the majestic Arena di Verona. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

**Day 4**
Breakfast and transfer to Pavia. You will arrive around 11pm and you will check-in in your hotel room. Guided walking tour in the old town: the Church of the Virgin of the Mount Carmel, considered one of the best representative examples of the Lombard Gothic style, the Basilica of Saint Peter in Ciel d’Oro, dating back to the Middle Ages, the Castel of the Visconti Lords, where the Civic Museum takes place, the medieval towers, the elegant Piazza della Vittoria, the beating heart of the city, with its underground market, the Basilica of Saint Michael the Major, in which the emperors Berengario and Fredrick Barbarossa were crowned.
You cannot miss Borgo Ticino, quaint little neighbourhood known for its colourful houses by the Ticino river and the Ponte Coperto or Ponte Vecchio, which cross the river.
Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

**Day 5**
Transfer to the Certosa di Pavia, an amazing monastery only few kilometres away from the centre of Pavia. The Certosa, belonging to Certosini monks, is composed by the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Mercy, by the Big and Little Cloisters and by the Palazzo Ducale where you can visit the museum of the Certosa. Then, the visit continues in Corteleona to visit the Castle, luxurious residence built by King Liutprando, and then in Belgioioso where we can find the well-known Castle. Originally it belonged to Galeazzo II Visconti and then to Barbiano family, becoming a little mansion where all the members of the aristocracy could meet. You cannot miss a walking across the wonderful garden of the castle. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

**Day 6**
Check out and departures.
NORTHEAST
PORDENONE-UDINE | VENEZIA GIULIA

Day 1
Arrival in Udine, charming city with its Piazza della Libertà, considered the most beautiful Venetian square on the mainland. Nearby, a monumental staircase takes to Udine Castle, which rises on a low hill: from the top you can admire the city, the Julian Alps rising above the Friuli Plains and the Adriatic Sea southbound. The Castle hosts the City Museum of archeology. Within walking distance, you can easily reach Piazza Matteotti, a touch of art combined with relaxation, the Museum of Modern Art Casa Cavazzini and the Diocesan Museum and Tiepolo Galleries, the Cathedral.

Lunch in one of the traditional “osterie” to discover the flavours of local products. In the afternoon, visit to Palù di Livenza, with its archaeological and naturalistic trails that will guide you to visit the most beautiful spots. All marked trails are easy and relaxing walks and do not present particular difficulties. The route may be associated with a visit to the Museo Archeologico del Friuli Occidentale, which houses the archaeological finds of Palù di Livenza.

Day 2
Departure to Aquileia to visit its vast archaeological area and the basilical complex, a precious shrine of art and bimillennial history. World Heritage Site since 1998, the ancient Aquileia, partially still unexcavated, constitutes one of the most complete examples of a Roman city, which has gifted us with extraordinary finds, displayed in the two museums, and in its hearts presents the Patriarchal Basilica, that enchants visitors and pilgrims with wonderful mosaics.

Day 3
Visit to Palmanova, a fortified star-shaped city, founded by venetians in 1593, “ideal city”, perfect example of military architecture. A still intact Fortress, defended by three circles of walls and three monumental gates. Visit to the Cathedral, the Main Square, the Bastions Historical Park and the Venetian galleries. In the afternoon, after having lunch in a typical trattoria, visit to Cividale del Friuli, that reveals not only true artistic treasures as the refined Longobard Temple in the Monastery of Santa Maria in the Valley, it also offers enchanting views, like that of the majestic Devil’s Bridge on the Natisone river.

Day 4
Departure to Forni di Sopra, framed by the splendid peaks of the Friulian Dolomites and located in a wide and sunny valley in the eastern part of the “Natural Park of Friulian Dolomites”, one of the largest in the Alps. Besides hiking in the Park, with its unspoiled nature, it is recommended a visit to the village of Cella with its parish Church of Santa Maria Assunta and to the fifteenth-century Church of San Floriano, national monument.

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Day 1
Visit of the city and short excursion into the historic center, that ends with a walk to the 16th century Strada Nuova, now Via Garibaldi, and visit of some of the 42 Palazzi dei Rolli: Palazzo Tobia Piazzavivo, Palazzo Lomellino, Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Giacomino and Pantaleo Balbi, Palazzo Grimaldi Spinola di Pellicceria, the only example of a residence with original furnishings and the museum of Palazzo Reale with the Sala del Trono, the Ballroom and the Gallery of Mirrors. Possibility to visit the Apartment of the Hereditary Princes, upon request and booking.

Day 2
In the morning guided tour of Palazzo del Principe, the largest and most sumptuous noble residence of the city of Genoa. The itinerary, through the princely apartments, ends in the monumental garden, a place of feasts in honor of illustrious guests. In the afternoon visit of the Aquarium of Genoa, with the new Cetacean Pavilion designed by Renzo Piano. Following a guided tour of the thirty certified Genoese historical shops, real treasures of architecture and traditions, with the possibility of shopping for excellent local products in prestigious rooms and medieval “caruggi”.

Day 3
Departure in the direction of La Spezia with a stop in the famous bay of Portofino for a coffee and focaccia in the square. After the break, departure for the Cinque Terre. The day is dedicated to visiting the Cinque Terre (Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso) and Portovenere that can be visited on foot, along the spectacular trails that connect them, or by train. For those who love the sea there is the possibility all year to move by boat and enjoy unforgettable views. In the afternoon you can continue with the visit of Lerici, its Borgo, the Oratory of San Rocco, the Church of San Francesco and the imposing Castle of Lerici, seat of the Geopaleontological Museum, which presents dinosaur and tecodonti’s footsteps, lived beyond 200 million years ago.

Day 4
Guided tour of La Spezia and Sarzana. Walk and visit to the historic center of La Spezia, entrance to the Civic Museum of Ancient Art and the Archaeological Museum in the Castle of San Giorgio. Possibility to visit the Naval Museum, pride of the city, set up inside the military Arsenal. In the afternoon transfer to Sarzana, visit of the historic center with the Cathedral of Santa Maria, Via Mazzini with the ancient Via Francigena, up to Piazza del Comune. The itinerary ends with a visit to the splendid Fortezza del Sarzanello.
Otherwise visit to the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark which is part, since 2015, of the prestigious network of global geoparks, including numerous sites of remarkable importance for the knowledge and the dissemination of geological heritage, that well represents the various Earth Science disciplines and allows to discover the fascinating geological evolution of a region. The Beigua Geopark offers events and attractions throughout the year and allows the visitor to pick the best period of journey between the different choices of accommodation: from farmhouses and montain huts located in the heart of the park, to the numerous inns, B&B of the hinterland, up to the most luxurious accommodation facilities in the coastal towns.

Day 5
Departure for Sassari. If you are lucky enough to visit Sassari in the days around the middle of August, you will witness, as every year since five centuries ago, the Discesa Dei Candelieri, the great party of Sassari which is celebrated just on the eve of Ferragosto, a suggestive religious and costumes appointment. The Candelsticks are huge, wooden cylindrical candles – 300/400 kg of weight – carried on the shoulders and arms of eight bearers, under the direction of a Candlestick chief. A party heard by the whole city: the crowd passionately follows the parade where the Candelieri rotate in dance step between two wings of the crowd, to the sound of the pipes and the drums, with enthusiasm and growing popular participation.

Day 6
Check-out and returning back.
PERUGIA | CAMPOBASSO | ISERNIA

Day 1
Arrival in the city of Perugia: the splendid capital of Umbria, with its narrow medieval streets, breathtaking views and many delicious specialities to enjoy. But there is much more to it: Piazza IV Novembre with its famous Fontana Maggiore, the Cathedral of San Lorenzo and the massive Palazzo dei Priori, home to the National Gallery of Umbria. A day devoted entirely to art and culture. Transfer to hotel and overnight.

Day 2
In Assisi you’ll breathe peace: it is identified with one of the most beloved and worshipped saints in the world, St. Francis. A delightful medieval town full of characteristic corners and culinary delights; visiting the town leads to the discovery of many places associated with St. Francis himself. There is the Cathedral of St. Rufino (12th century), patron of the city, the Basilica of Santa Chiara (13th century) and the Chiesa Nuova, built in 1615 on the site of the Saint Father’s home and certainly the Basilica of Saint Francis. The complex, built above the Saint’s tomb, represents the heart of the Franciscan spirituality and it’s an architectural masterpiece that captures the best of the medieval Italian art. In the afternoon, the tour will continue to Campello and Spoleto to visit the Tempietto del Clitunno and the Basilica of San Salvatore, two of the main Lombard monuments of central Italy, which have been recognized as UNESCO sites since 2011. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

Day 3
After breakfast transfer to Isernia, in the Molise region. The narrow streets of the town host places and workshops that safeguard the precious knowledge of ancient skills, still widely practiced. Isernia artisans are highly valued and there are people who embroider. Guided tour of the city. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

Day 4
A day all about nature. Visit the MAB Collemeluccio – Montedimezzo Natural Reserve, protected natural areas under the UNESCO recognition. The mission is to maintain the balance between man and the biosphere. Visit Pietrabbondante, a characteristic small hamlet close to the “Morge”, giant stones that emerge from the slopes of Mount Caraceno. Also, in Pietrabbondante, the magnificent archaeological site of the “Samnite Theatre”, a semi-circular structure perfectly placed beneath the site’s most important temple, and equipped with “ergonomic” seats, with decorative winged griffons marking the end of each row. Grassy livestock trails passing through and crossing through valleys and mountainous plains, are often found close to inhabited centres, once serving as supply and trading posts, and linking Apulia and Abruzzo by Molise. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

Day 5
Campobasso is a city with more than a few surprises: Manforte Castle, its 14th century Cathedral, the 16th century church of Sant’Antonio Abate and the Romanesque Churches of San Giorgio and of San Bartolomeo. Guided tour of the city. Transfer to the airport or station and coming back home.
**SOUTHEAST**

BARI | MATERA | POTENZA

**Day 1**
Arrival in Bari: visit of the city in the morning. Lunch based on seafood and fish. Afternoon visit to the UNESCO site “Castel del Monte” and the nearby area of the Murgia. Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

**Day 2**
After breakfast, transfer to Valle d’Itria. Visit of Alberobello. Typical lunch in the city. Afternoon dedicated to visiting the Castellana Caves.

**Day 3**
Meeting with the guide for the visit to the Park of the Murgia Materana: visit to the Sassi, to the Crypt of the Original Sin, defined the Sistine Chapel of the cave wall painting with frescoes of Lombard origin, datable to the 9th century and among the oldest in Basilicata. Continue to Murgia Timone, the most stunning panoramic area. Visit to the rock complexes. In the afternoon visit of the Rupestrian Churches of Santa Lucia alle Malve, of Santa Maria dell’Idris and of the extraordinary complex of the Convicinio di Sant’Antonio.

**Day 4**
Day dedicated to the guided tour of the sites around Matera. Miglionico, a town dominated by the imposing Castle of Malconsiglio, of Norman origin that dominates the whole valley. Then the Pontifical Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, which keeps the precious Polittico di Cima da Conegliano and a splendid Norman crypt. Walk in the center and departure for Montescaglioso, fief of the Altavilla and visit of the Abbey of San Michele Arcangelo, one of the most valuable monuments of southern Italy and symbol of the city. Transfer to Potenza and overnight at the hotel.

**Day 5**
Breakfast and visit to the tourist attractions and the area around Potenza: Visit to the Tibetan Bridge to Sasso Castalda, Flight of the Angel of Castel Mezzano, visit to the village of Pietrapertosa. Departure for the Pollino Park, with sinner and overnight stay in Rotonda (PZ), headquarters of the Ente Parco.

**Day 6**
Excursions and guided tours in the Parco Del Pollino area, rich in biodiversity. Depending on the preferences and the level of preparation you can choose for much or less demanding excursions and reach places with different scenic and naturalistic features. There are also mountain biking or horse trails. Guided tours of the Lao River where it is possible to go rafting in the gorges of the river. Guided tours in the villages of the park, the Naturalistic Museum and Paleontological Museum of Rotonda, where the restored remains of a specimen of Elephas Antiquus Italicus dating back to the Middle Upper Pleistocene (400,000 – 700,000 years ago), and other fossil remains of other animal species are exhibited.

**Day 7**
Transfer to Bari to return back.
SOUTH

**ISOLE EOLIE | RAGUSA | CROTONE**

Day 1
Arrival in Catania, organized transfer (shuttle–hydrofoil–shuttle) from the Fontarossa airport to the hotel. Check-in and dinner with typical products and recipes.

Day 2
After breakfast, guided urban trekking of Lipari with a stop to the Archaeological Aeolian Museum. Lunch in a typical Aeolian menu. In the afternoon we’ll have a guided tour of the island with a stop in a local winery for a tasting during the sunset. Return to hotel and typical dinner.

Day 3
Breakfast in hotel and boat tour of Vulcano, Panarea and Stromboli. The itinerary includes the visit to the muds and the sulfuric waters of Vulcano and/or the eventual climb to the crater. After lunch there is the tour of Panarea, where we’ll stop in the splendid Bay of Calaunuco, presided by the Prehistoric Village of Piana Milazzese. Around 4pm we’ll go to Stromboli, where it will be the possible to visit the village and see the spectacular volcanic explosion from the sea under the “sciara del fuoco”.

Day 4
Boat excursion to Lipari and Salina. After breakfast, departure at 10am for the island of Salina, with a bathing stop at the caves of pumice. Leave again for Salina, where we’ll have a tour of the island with a stop in Pollicare, the bay where the movie “Il Postino” was filmed. After that we’ll depart for Leghetto di Lingua to taste the most famous slush of the Aeolian Islands. We’ll come back sailing along the coast of Lipari’s unpolluted west side. Return in hotel and dinner with tasting menu.

Day 5
In the morning departure from Milazzo and transfer to Ragusa. We’ll stop in the well-known Taormina for a lunch by the sea. After that we’ll continue towards Ragusa. Accommodation in hotel, tour of the historic center and overnight stay.

Day 6
After breakfast, a guided tour of the city. There are over fifty Baroque churches in this city as well as numerous palaces. Perhaps a day is not enough to visit this incredible city: Ragusa Ibla, or Ragusa Inferiore is one of two neighbourhoods in the city’s historic center. The Ragusa Ibla district is in the eastern part of Ragusa, on a hill some 300-400 meters high. Every corner of the city – between archways and from steep stairways – offers incredible views of the city and its monuments, whilst the stairway between Ragusa Superiore and Ibla also provides magnificent views aver the surrounding countryside. 14 of the city’s 18 monuments listed as World Heritage sites can be found in Ragusa Ibla.

Day 7
We leave the beautiful Sicily to return to the continent but before leaving the South, from Reggio Calabria through “The journey of great Greece, through wonderful places and an incomparable wealth”, we will arrive in Crotone, to enjoy the “Altopiano della Sila “, one of the most beautiful and evocative places in Italy. It is located in the heart of Calabria. The Sila mountains are a pristine place that remind of verdant and lush landscapes of beeches and conifers, rich in watercourses and fauna that still has an intact natural habitat. Among its peaks stands Mount Botte Donato, which reaches 1928 meters and Mount Gariglione, with its 1764 meters. Its territory is rich in water resources and this has allowed the creation of artificial lakes, that have integrated perfectly into the already enchanting natural environment of the place, making it more evocative. Overnight in Crotone.

Day 8
Transfer to Reggio Calabria airport to reach back home.
Day 1 e 2
Arrival at the majestic Royal Palace of Caserta, one of the 5 UNESCO sites in the region. The palace was commissioned by Charles II, King of Naples, to crown the desire to have a palace that could be more sumptuous than Versailles. He succeeded. The sumptuous palace is an ideal and original fusion of two other royal residences: the Palace of Versailles of the kings of France and the Madrid palace of the Escorial, headquarters of the Spanish departments. Besides the Reggia, the park surrounding it is fascinating and immense, composed of an Italian garden - in which there are several fountains and the famous Great Waterfall – and the English garden, characterized by thick woods. The Royal Palace of Caserta is considered the largest royal residence in the world and was built towards the end of the 18th century by the will of the King of Naples Carlo di Borbone. The Royal Palace became his favorite residence. Initially designed for Naples, it was moved to Caserta to prevent it from being easily attacked by the sea. The architect who created it was Luigi Vanvitelli. The new palace was made to be a symbol of the new Bourbon state and to display power and grandeur, but also to be efficient and rational. The work lasted years, from 1751 to 1845, although it was inhabited as early as 1780. During these years not only did King Charles of Bourbon die, but also Vanvitelli himself, to whom his son succeeded. Example of the Italian Baroque, the palace is a complex of 1200 rooms and 1742 windows, 34 stairs, for an area of about 47 thousand square meters. The Royal Park, a fundamental part of the project presented by the architect Luigi Vanvitelli to the sovereigns, is inspired by the gardens of the great European residences of the time, fusing the Italian tradition of the Renaissance garden with the solutions introduced by André Le Nôtre in Versailles. The work, with the delimitation of the area and the planting of the first plants, begun in 1753, simultaneously with those for the construction of the Carolino Aqueduct, whose waters, from the slopes of Mount Taburno, would have supplied the fountains of the royal gardens. The formal garden, as we can see today, is only partly the realization of what Luigi Vanvitelli had conceived: on his death, in fact, in 1773, the aqueduct had been completed but no fountain had yet been built. The work was completed by his son Carlo (1740-1821), who, although simplifying the paternal project, was faithful to it, preserving the compositional rhythm of the alternation of fountains, water basins, meadows and waterfalls. Return to the hotel and overnight.

Day 3
Departure for Benevento: city of mysteries, myths, legends and history. An encounter between reality and fantasy that makes the story bewitching. Land of the Samnites, the Longobards and the Romans, the latter was the one who called it Maleventum after the Samnites' defeating them in the famous battle of the Caudine Forks. It was only after the Romans got the better of it that they renamed it Beneventum, to forget a military defeat that gave birth to an expression still used today to indicate a terrible defeat (Forche Caudine). Among the legends that are linked to Benevento, the most famous one is that of the witches or in local dialect “janare”, who gathered under a walnut tree near the river Sabato. Witches hover on the city, also giving its name to a famous liqueur. But Benevento is also a city of Roman monuments (Arco di Traiano and Greek Theater), the church of Santa Sofia – UNESCO heritage – great wines and excellent gastronomy. The monumental complex of Santa Sofia includes the church, one of the most important in Lombardy Minor up to the present day, the bell tower in front of the square, the former monastery with a beautiful cloister, the fountain in the centre of the area. It is part of the site “Longobardi in Italy: places of power”, including seven places full of architectural, pictorial and sculptural testimonies of Longobard art. The church of Santa Sofia is one of the most complex and best-preserved structures of the period, that still displays on the walls important passages from the early medieval painting cycles.

Day 4
Still Benevento. The city still has much to offer: The Arch of Trajan is a monument of rare beauty that leaves astonished, not only for its majesty but also because of its excellent state of conservation, the Roman Theatre that dates back to the early 2nd century and the Palazzo Paolo V, La Rocca dei Rettori, Hortus Conclusu, the Duomo, the Museo del Sannio.

Day 5
Return to destination.
A NETWORK COMMITTED TO THE PROMOTION OF UNEXPECTED PLACES
OF HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE
IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

MIRABILIA - EUROPEAN NETWORK OF UNESCO SITES
Promotion of UNESCO sites, territories and paths by the Chambers of Commerce
THE NETWORK

Working in collaboration with Mirabilia, the Chambers of Commerce have created a network that comprises three UNESCO World Heritage Sites in France.

Following in the footsteps of its Italian experience, Mirabilia began its journey in pursuit of wonderful places to discover in France in 2015.

Three Chambers of Commerce joined forces to tell the stories of places, food and extensive cultural heritage that is recognised or in the process of being recognised by UNESCO.

The meeting in Verona aims to cultivate the idea of creating a model of a unique, but replicable experience that takes us to fascinating and magical destinations just waiting to be discovered. The Gard, Tarbes Hautes-Pyrénées and Tarn are all represented at the 6th edition of the “International Cultural Tourism Exchange”, in order to tell a highly qualified audience about the best that tourism has to offer throughout the year. This is a very important promotional opportunity for France and the UNESCO sites involving the active participation of international buyers and a variety of events during these two days dedicated to experiencing culture, food and handicrafts; are all of great interest and particularly fascinating.

Feedback from buyers is increasingly encouraging, with more requests for destinations that combine art, culture, and gastronomy with scenery and important sites, which is perfectly in line with the Mirabilia project. We are not talking merely about holidays, but of travels, of unique experiences that make it possible to live an adventure, grow culturally, and enjoy emotional experiences that open our eyes to the often overlooked beauty of Italy’s widespread cultural heritage.

A journey to find local character, rediscover the traditions of a new place that holds small, yet remarkable, visible treasures of art and culture, and others, more hidden, but equally interwoven with enduring stories about different experiences and activities. The Mirabilia Urbis Romae were practical guides, written by travellers, that in ancient times took pilgrims towards the Eternal City, telling stories of the communities, people and places they met along the way.

Today they are more relevant than ever!

During the two days in Matera, sellers will have the chance to present plenty of museums and monuments, fun opportunities, local folklore, quality local hospitality and the most up to date and reliable information.
The Gard is an authentic and generous region marked by significant historical events from prehistory to Roman and medieval times. A fragrant whiff of eternity, to be relished through remains and historical monuments...

Take some blue to paint the Mediterranean, a few touches of green and brown to delineate the closepacked bushes of the garrigue, some ochre and beige for the stone houses of the villages - and you have a pretty good picture of the Gard. A crossroads between Provence, the Languedoc, the Cévennes and the Camargue, this département joyfully celebrates the accents of the Midi.

The world of the Romans, elegantly offered by the Pont du Gard, designated UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. This sublime achievement, reminds us how indelibly the Romans left their mark on this region. Nîmes was given an amphitheatre seating 24,000 and an imperial temple (the “Maison carré”), and became a centre that actively promoted the Roman lifestyle in Gaul. Nîmes will be presented by France to the Committee of the World Heritage of UNESCO in 2018. After the fall of the Roman Empire, many important strongholds appeared in the Middle Ages. These included Saint-Gilles - a stopping point for pilgrims on the road to Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle and a doorway to the Mediterranean, Aigues-Mortes, which Saint Louis turned into a major French port. Further north, the grey clouds of the Wars of Religion loomed over the Cévennes. Nature: along the paths of the Gard. Do you long for wide open spaces, cloudless horizons and intense moments in total communion with your surroundings? Then get your walking shoes and strike out from the main roads, so that you can really appreciate the pathways of the Gard... Whether in arid, schist-covered mountains, limestone garrigues fragrant with thyme or broad plains, you can ramble along the winding scrubland paths of the Gard as the fancy takes you, enjoying a huge variety of landscapes, sensations and colours.
MUST VISIT

1. Go on a four wheel drive safari in the Camargue, and see the ramparts of Aigues-Mortes, the salt mines, the local wildlife: black bulls, white horse and pink flamingos,… Built in the 13th-century, the fortifications of Aigues-Mortes are a remarkably well-preserved military structure. Guided visit of Saint-Gilles: one of the most important places for Christian pilgrimage in the twelfth century. Saint-Gilles is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

2. Visit of “Les Arènes de Nîmes, the best-preserved amphitheatre of the Roman world. Facing it, the Musée de la Romanité. A few steps further, superbly preserved, the Maison Carrée built in the first century AD. In the afternoon you will walk to the Jardins de la Fontaine laid out in the 18th century under Louis XV by J-P Mareschal and G. Dardalhon and climb at the top of the hill towards the Tour Magne. This is the reason why, under the heading “Nîmes, antiquity in the present” the old city will be presented to the Committee of the World Heritage of Unesco in 2018.

3. Guided visit of Uzès: this charming city is an architectural jewel that has been awarded the distinction of City of Art and History. Visit the Pont du Gard: a true masterpiece of ancient architecture, the Pont du Gard aqueduct is one of the most beautiful Roman constructions in the region. UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. Bambouseraie in Cevennes: in this bamboo forest, the micro-climate was conducive to the growth of the first giant bamboos planted in 1856. Exotic park, unique in Europe, with plant maze, aquatic garden, Laotian village with characteristic Laotian bamboo constructions, Dragon Valley, a strolling garden which plays with mineral / plant alternatives where spring flowers and autumn colors play a major role.

Can't Miss
Mont Aigoual, Gorges du Gardon, the Duchy of Uzes, Cevennes National Park, wildlife réserve of Camargue.

How to get here
Marseille Provence airport (1h30), Montpellier airport (45mn), Nîmes airport. Railway: Paris (3h), Lyon (1h30).
Motorways: A54 (Marseille), A9 (Lyon-Barcelone).

For more information:
CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE DU GARD
Stéphanie Villessot
Email: s.villessot@gard.cci.fr
www.gard.cci.fr
Classed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, Gavarnie is the most famous natural arena in the world. It is visited by over 1 million visitors every year. Nothing can prepare you for your first glimpse of the Cirque de Gavarnie. The wordsmith Victor Hugo described it as “the most mysterious building by the most mysterious architect; it’s the colosseum of nature: it’s Gavarnie”. An impressive natural amphitheatre of rare perfection. Gavarnie looks like pure invention nestled in the middle of the Pyrenees. It’s over 5km in diameter with 1500 meters high vertical walls, hundreds of waterfalls and a crown of peaks exceeding 3000 meters in altitude. Gavarnie may be the most spectacular and famous natural cirque but it’s not alone. Troumouse and Estaübe are a stone’s throw away and a feast for the eyes. Gavarnie has very easy access. The view from Gavarnie village towards the cirque is fabulous, an easy path (2 hours return) leaves from the village towards the foot of the cirque. Cirque de Troumouse: Troumouse is gigantic, a Goliath, even bigger than Gavarnie. The famous 18th century explorer Ramond de Carbonnières estimated it could hold 10 million people. Another curiosity is the rolling grasslands within the Cirque which are a favourite playground for marmots. Cirque d’Estaübé: after a 2 hour walk one reach the Cirque. The area is famous for its superb variety of wild flowers. The staggering cirques lie next to the Spanish canyons in Spain’s upper Aragon and together form the Gavarnie-Mount-Perdu site, a sacred mountain listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site and unique slice of the Pyrenees. The great Canyon of Ordesa: unique in Europe, the great canyon of Ordesa is a bit like a Pyrenean Colorado, with its Dantesque walls. Vertiginous cliffs, suspended cirques, aerial “fajãs”, sparkling waterfalls – Ordesa is the very expression of excess.

PYRÉNÉES - MONT PERDU (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1997)

1. Gavarnie cirque wall - ©Pierre Meyer
2. The Roland's Breach - Gavarnie ©Pierre Meyer
3. Sheperd and his herd - Mount Perdu ©HPTE-Pierre Meyer
4. Gavarnie cirque wall under the snow ©HPTE-Pierre Meyer
5. Bainéa thermal spa - ©HPTE-CRT-VIET
6. Starry evening at the Pic du Midi astronomical observatory ©HPTE-Paul Compère
7. Torchlight procession - Lourdes ©HPTE-Eric Martin-Le Figaro Mag
8. Porch Noir hams - ©Jacques Valat
9. Sheep cheese - ©Jacques Valat
Why not follow millions of visitors from all over the world and explore Lourdes? There is no need to be a practicing catholic, or even a Christian – people come to see the Grotto, to touch the rocks, gather water from the springs, light a candle, and walk carrying a flaming torch. These rituals are as much pagan, superstitious or magic as they are religious. A unique personal experience that touches everyone.

The journey continues and the most beautiful views in the Pyrenees are in store for today. Whether you are standing in front of the spectacular Gavarnie Cirque, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, crossing the passes of the Col d’Aspin or the Col du Tourmalet, or on board the cable car or at the top of the Pic du Midi, we guarantee views that will take your breath away.

Today you are heading for Aragon on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees. Explore ‘Los Ríos’, the stone villages and the gleaming Spanish sun. Go through the Aragnouet-Bielsa tunnel and the wild and magical Canyon d’Añisclo is all yours (Gavarnie - Mont-Perdu UNESCO Site). You can swim in the turquoise waters of the natural pools formed by the river before returning to the village of Ainsa, capital of Sobrarbe, with its fortified square.

After your little Aragonese adventure, leavie the Spanish Pyrenees, which are devoid of Pyrenean mountain streams, to encounter one of the most beautiful lakeside views in the mountains. Take the Mountain Lakes Route to reach the Neouvielle National Nature Reserve. The day’s journey ends at Balnéa by the Lac de Génos-Loudenvielle, where you can bathe outdoors in naturally warm and soothing spring water, your eyes fixed on the peaks of the Pyrenees that reach an altitude of more than 3,000 meters.
Albi, a city of splendours, of history …
and a gentle way of life.

THE EPISCOPAL CITY OF ALBI
(UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2010)

Given colour to everything are the omnipresent red bricks of Albi. A delicate pink in the morning, bright orange in the sunsets of summer or crimson at night. The changing colour of the bricks is as lively as the history of the city.

Situated on the banks of the Tarn, the Episcopal city of Albi has been classed as a Unesco World Heritage Site since 2010. The Cathedral of St Cécile is a monumental and impressive sight, and is the biggest brick built cathedral in the world. Majestic and imposing it can be seen from anywhere. A major piece of architecture, a must-see of the Tarn.

The episcopal city is supplemented by the huge bishop's Berbie Palace which overlooks the river and is surrounded by many districts with houses dating from the Middle Ages. Today the Palace is home to the magnificent Toulouse Lautrec museum, a painter from Albi. The museum has the most complete permanent collection comprising paintings and the celebrated posters for the Moulin Rouge. The episcopal city of Albi has a collection of landmarks and historic districts that have hardly changed over the centuries.

For the visitor old Alby has a wealth of private mansions, streets bordered by medieval houses with painted shutters, the collegiate church and cloister of St Salvy, the Old Bridge and the bucolic banks of the Tarn…

Wandering down a back alley, sitting at a café or eating lunch on the riverbank are ways to appreciate the ambiance of the town.

Finally Albi is also a way of life. The covered market brings together producers from the area, cheese-makers, market gardeners, sausage and saucisson makers, wine producers … They want you to share in their know-how, their experience and are only too happy to offer succulent tastes of the local produce.

1. Albi - Episcopal City of Albi
2. Albi - Sainte Cecile Cathedral
3. Albi - Historic center
4. Henri de TOULOUSE-LAUTREC
   Ambassadeurs - Aristide Bruant - 1892
5. Castres - Old houses on the Agoust river
6. Tarn - Pastel
7. Hot air balloon above the vineyard
8. Lautrec Village
9. Cordes sur Ciel
10. Bastide village of Puycelsi

mirabilianetwork.eu
Arrival in Albi at the beginning of the afternoon. You will be welcomed at the hotel by your conference guide and leave to explore the old centre of the town and the cathedral of St Cécile, the pearl of the episcopal city.

In the morning you will visit the Tolouse Lautrec museum which is located in the fortress of the Berbie Palace, residence of the bishops of Albi. The museum houses the most important collection in the world by the artist. Directly afterwards you will take to the road to explore the medieval walled towns of the area (bastides albigeoises) the most famous of which is Cordes-sur-Ciel, voted favourite French village in 2014. After lunch, you will be driven through the thousand year old wine growing area of Gaillac, which, as the vine planted slopes unfold resembles a semi-mediterranean landscape to the village of Rabastens. Alongside the Tarn, on the navigable waterway where the traditional river boats (Gabarres) transported the Gaillac wine barrels to Bordeaux, Rabastens invites you to see the doors of Notre Dame du Bourg, listed as a World Heritage site by virtue of its association with the pilgrim routes of St James of Compostella.

Departure for a visit to Castres, a town marked by the many changes in religion, from the Cathar heresy to Protestantism. Castres has preserved this past, rich in events evolving to a cultural identity, architecturally and economically strong. After lunch, you will explore the scholastic Abbey of Sorèze. This ancient building will take you through 13 centuries of history and allow you to experience for yourself the life of the pupils of the 19th century, a life lived between strictness and freedom.

Departure from the hotel and return home.

Can’t Miss
City of Castres – Musée Goya
The birthplace of pastel
The beginning of the Canal du Midi
The bastides and the vineyard of Gaillac
The massive granite site of Sidobre

How to get here
Castres-Mazamet airport (50 km)
Toulouse Blagnac airport (85 km)
By train from Toulouse 1 hours

For more information:
TARN RÉSERVATION TOURISME
-SALES DEPARTMENT
Phone: +33 (0)5 63 77 01 60
E-Mail:groupes@tourisme-tarn.com
Tarn Réservation Tourisme
-PRESS-RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
Phone: +33 (0)5 63 67 32 29
E-Mail:christian.riviere@tourisme-tarn.com
mirabilianetwork.eu