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smart TouRism Across the MEditerranean Sea

Creating a network of tourist itineraries connecting the hidden historical and archaeological heritage of the *Mare Nostrum*: this is one of the main goals of the **TRAMES project**, co-funded by the European Union and based on the creation of new routes in five pilot areas of the Mediterranean through innovative promotion strategies.

The initiative, which involved eight partners representing six European countries, is based on the Phoenicians' Route – included in 2003 in the "Cultural Routes" Programme of the Council of Europe and recognised in 2016 by the World Tourism Organization, which promotes cultural dialogue through cultural and archaeological heritage of Mediterranean civilizations following the ancient nautical and maritime routes.

The project led to the creation of eight **Smart Ways**, paths based on innovative and current themes including sustainability, creative tourism, active involvement of local populations and entrepreneurs, and to the establishment of eight heritage interpretation centres with local communities at the core of the tourist offer.





Among the project goals: revitalizing EU destinations by seasonally adjusting and implementing the sustainability of tourist offers; fostering the collaboration between tour operators and cultural industries of participating countries; last but not least, creating a solid public-private partnership in the involved areas by promoting exchanges of experiences and skills at international level.

To broaden the perspective and capture the attention of a wider audience, the initiative also envisaged the creation of an innovative dissemination tool for the project: **Mediterranean 1200 BC: a new age**, a videogame based on the Phoenicians' trade routes that allows players to immerse themselves in the historical atmosphere of ancient Mediterranean.

Covering a period of time that approximately goes from 1200 BC to the siege of Carthage in 146 BC, an exciting and original exploration of the past is launched, following the routes of Phoenician maritime expansion and discovering numerous emporiums and cities created by the Phoenicians but also by the Etruscans, Greeks and Romans along the Mediterranean coasts. The goal of the game is the development of Phoenician settlements by implementing their commercial activities and moving resources across the Mediterranean, along specific routes and with historically accurate means of transport.



TRAMES partnership

ITALY

- **Timesis**, Monitoring and design company and Montepisano DMC (*Destination Management Company*), project leader (www.timesis.it)
- **The Phoenicians' Route**, Cultural Route of the Council of Europe (www.fenici.net)

- **PleinAir**, Italian monthly magazine (www.pleinair.it)

SPAIN

- **Autonomous City of Melilla** (www.melilla.es)

CYPRUS

- **Top Kinisis**, Tour Operator (www.topkinisis.com)

UNITED KINGDOM

- **EGA Entertainment Game Apps**, video game development company (www.egameapps.com)

MALTA

- **Inizjamed**, Cultural Association (www.inizjamed.org)

GREECE

- **Xanthi Chamber of Commerce** (www.ebex.gr)

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Smart Way

The Island of Aphrodite

It is no coincidence that the ancient Greeks believed that Aphrodite, the Venus of the Romans, was born from the sea of Cyprus. The charm surrounding the third largest island in the Mediterranean is made up of many pieces, starting with the corners of unspoiled nature that characterize the coastal and inland landscapes. And more. Cyprus boasts a complex history and identity due to its peculiar location that makes it a connection between the West and the East: from archaeology to religion, from architecture to gastronomy, from beaches to hiking and biking itineraries, the southern side of the island offers a multi-coloured territory to be discovered. The Smart Way of the Republic of Cyprus is divided into three interconnected paths that enhance the excellence of the archaeological heritage by connecting to a single, bewitching thread: Aphrodite's traces. Before exploring them, it is worth dedicating at least two days to the capital, Nicosia, rich in cultural treasures and Mediterranean suggestions. For a first meeting with the goddess of beauty, let's go through the entrance to the Archaeological Museum of Cyprus: the famous Aphrodite of Soli is among the most viewed finds of the rich exhibition documenting the island's civilization from the Neolithic to the early Byzantine period (VII century AD). Wandering around the numerous churches, mosques, historical palaces and traditional buildings – including Hamam Omerye – the tour of the city culminates with a visit to Cyprus Handicraft Centre and to one of local taverns of the old town market. The Laiki Geitonia district is worth a visit, with its concentration of cafes, restaurants and boutiques.





The ancient kingdom of Idalion

Leaving Nicosia, the route heads south to the city of **Dali**. The **archaeological site of Idalion** is located here, one of the most important kindoms of the antiquity, funded in 1100 BC by the Achaean king Chalcanor, and flourished until the middle of the V century BC. Its strategic position between the copper mines in the interland and the ports of the eastern and southern coast contributed to the prosperity of the settlement. Here, according to mythology, the god of war Ares killed out of jealousy Adonis, the lover of Aphrodite. The palace of Idalion boasts a collection of around eight hundred inscriptions, many of them in the Phoenician language (along with some Greek examples, in the Arcado-Cypriot dialect): among the most significant documents there is the Idalion Tablet kept in the Biblioth que Nationale de France, engraved on both sides and dating back to the Phoenician domination, around the V century BC. After a visit to the Museum of Ancient Idalion, the walk continues through the narrow streets of the town, up to the church of Agios Andronikos, in the heart of the historic center;

it is worth taking a break for the traditional snacks that someone traces back to the Phoenician era: *koupes*, a street food made of on meat, onion, parsley and spices.

From Dali, heading south to the coast, we reach **Larnaca** area with the **archaeological site of Kition**, an ancient city-kingdom founded by the Mycenaean Greeks in the XIII century BC, and dominated by the Phoenicians in the IX century. Kition prosperity was strictly linked to its port, core of the commercial traffic of many agricultural products exported to the eastern Mediterranean, to Egypt and the Aegean Sea. The remains of the Temple of Aphrodite testify that the goddess of beauty was also worshiped in these shores.

The seaside town of Larnaca expands across the extensive Finikoudes promenade. In the hinterland, the Church of Agios Lazaros and the ancient Turkish district of Skala. The itinerary continues towards the south-eastern part of Cyprus, to **Ayia Napa**, a characteristic fishing village, which today is a lively tourist destination.



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In Astarte's cradle

The second proposal focuses on Aphrodite's legendary birthplaces, discovering the links between her myth and that of Astarte, the Phoenician deity of fertility.

From Larnaca, heading to the west, you reach the village of Khirokitia (IX century BC), an important prehistoric site, recognised by UNESCO in 1998. After that, there are Lemesos (or Limassol), the first seaport of Cyprus, and a few kilometers away, the village of Erimi with the Wine Museum, a tribute to the oenological tradition of the island which boasts 5500 years of history; nearby there are the prehistoric settlement of Sotira and the medieval Kollosi castle, headquarters of the Knights Hospitaller.

To the east, the ancient **Amathus**, one of the largest sites consecrated to Aphrodite, where remains of shrines and temples dedicated to the goddess are still visible.

According to the myth, the Temple of Aphrodite in Amathus was founded by Amathus, the son of King Aerias. Ariadne, daughter of King Minos, was abandoned by her lover Theseus, on her way back from Crete to Athens, after having helped him kill the Minotaur.

To the west of Lemesos, on Episkopi Bay, **Kourion** archaeological site rises. Perched on a hill overlooking the sea, it dates back to the XIII century BC. Do not miss the Greek-Roman theatre of the II century BC, the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates and the Paleo Christian Basilica.

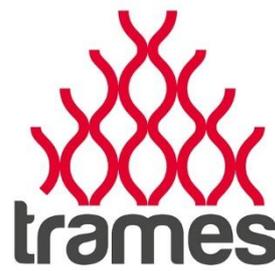


Along the southern coast, at about forty kilometres west, the next step is "Aphrodite's Rock" or "Petra tou Romiou", the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite from the sea foam, where Cronus had thrown Uranus's genitals. In the nearby village of Kouklia, it is possible to have lunch in one of the many local taverns scattered in the historic centre. Try the traditional *meze*, a rich meal made of numerous courses that blend the traditional flavors of the island. The temple of Palaepaphos, one of the most revered in the ancient world, included in the UNESCO world heritage list, dedicated to the goddess of beauty stands near Kouklia.



Another place to visit is the village of Geroskipou and the sacred gardens of Aphrodite, a large area of splendid gardens dedicated to the goddess, now replaced by the modern village renowned for its Cypriot delicacies.

Finally, **Paphos**, selected as European Capital of Culture in 2017 for its role of bridge between different cultures. A melting-pot of which many traces are still visible. The Tombs of the Kings, a vast sepulchral area famous for the majesty of the tombs, and the Archaeological Park of the same name, famous above all for the mosaic floors of its homes are noteworthy.



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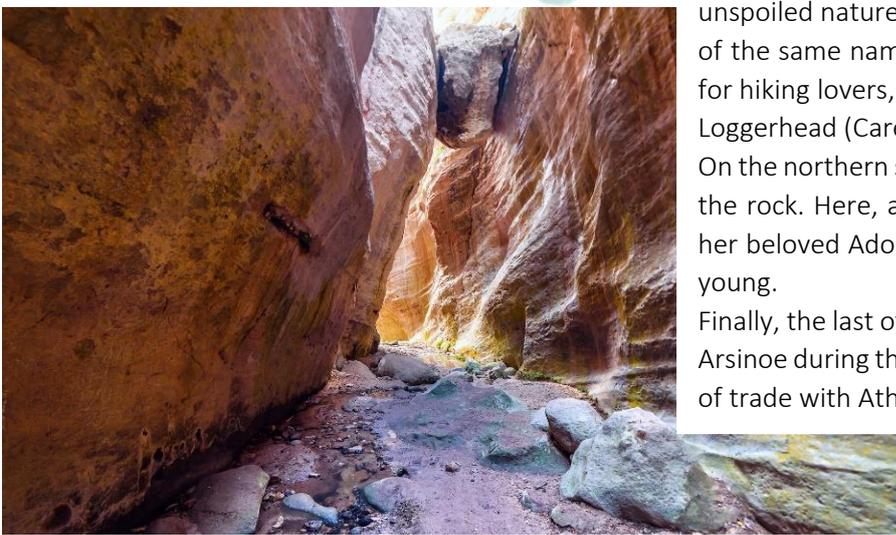


The sacred waters of Aphrodite

From Paphos, along the coast heading north, the third proposal offers the unspoiled nature of the **Akamas peninsula**, protected by the national park of the same name. Do not miss the Avakas gorge, an unspoiled paradise for hiking lovers, and Lara bay, where green turtles (*Chelonia Mydas*) and Loggerhead (*Caretta Caretta*) lay their eggs.

On the northern side, the Baths of Aphrodite, a swimming pool carved into the rock. Here, according to the legend, Aphrodite took a bath and met her beloved Adonis. Tradition says that taking a bath here helps you stay young.

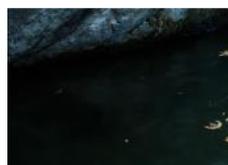
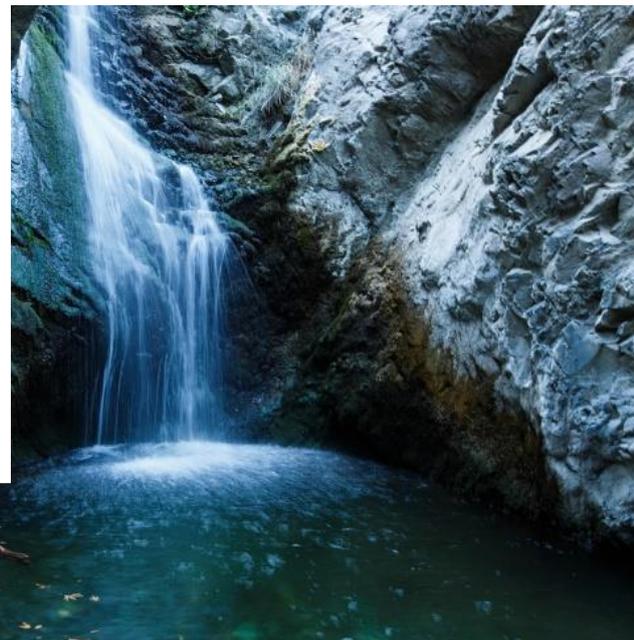
Finally, the last of the 10 city-states of Cyprus, known as **Marion** (renamed Arsinoe during the Hellenistic period), rich in gold and copper at the centre of trade with Athens.



From Paphos, a road leads inland to the **Troodos Mountains** area. Monks, outlaws, political activists, idle rich and, recently, skiers and hikers: the Troodos Mountains have always welcomed different groups looking for refuge, protection, asceticism or just a contact with nature. Near Mount Olympus - the highest peak of the mountain range (1952 msl) - there is a well-equipped visitor centre with maps and information on available routes (Artemis path, Persephone path, Atalante, Caledonia etc.). There is also a popular ski resort equipped with downhill slopes served by five ski lifts.

The Troodos Mountains hold some of the most significant evidence of Byzantine and post-Byzantine art: 10 religious buildings (nine churches and a monastery) where the contrast between the simple forms of Cypriot rural architecture and the rich interior decorations stands out. At the end of the route, the path to the east leads back to Nicosia.

A Smart Way allowing you to get in touch with the Cypriot culture between past and present, with a population who have a great desire to tell you about its history and identity.



Smart Way

Between Macedonia and Thrace



Laid at the foot of Rhodopes mountain range, **Xanthi** is the administrative centre of the homonym area of Eastern Thrace, in the current region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace - ancient crossroads between the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea. Narrow cobbled streets of the city centre - divided by Kosynthos river - are characterized by a marvellous mixture of styles. From local architecture to the Ottoman one, up to the elegant dwellings of rich tobacco lords: an activity that started during the XIX century and gave an important boost to local economy. Throughout the year, many events testify to the cultural liveliness of Xanthi: in particular, the celebrations of the Carnival period and the Old Town Festival in September.

Xanthi Smart Way follows two directions that meet in the administrative centre. The first one is divided into two paths leading inwards, the second one leads to the Aegean Sea.



Once you have visited the city, we suggest moving towards the sea, getting carried away by local history and mythological references. A few kilometres away from Xanthi you will find **Abdera** site: an important Greek city of the classical period on Thrace coast, a few kilometres east of Nestos river's mouth, nearly in front of the island of Thasos. The name of Abdera has Phoenician origin and evokes other two localities: one in Spain, near Malaga, and one in North Africa, near Carthage. According to the legend, Heracles founded it to honour his friend Abdero, devoured by the anthropophagous mares of Diomedes. Historical sources testify that the site was founded in the mid-VII century BC and became an important centre thanks to its strategic position along the routes between Mediterranean and Black Sea. Abdera is also known for being the birthplace of two great philosophers of antiquity: Democritus and Protagoras. After a visit to the Archaeological Museum preserving archaeological finds from the VII-XIII century AD, you can reach the fishing harbour of Porto Lagos following the coastal

path. From here, it is possible to get to **Thasos island** by sailboat. Through the coastal road, passing by the large international campsite, the **Agios Nikolaos Monastery** appears on a small island of the Lake Vistonida, connected to the mainland by a wooden bridge. Together with the nature reserves of Nestos River and Ismarida Lake, they form the National Park of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, established in 2008. With its 930.000 hectares, it represents one of the major wetlands in Europe, therefore included in 1992 in the European network Natura 2000. Here, nature lovers will be able to practice many outdoor activities: from kayak to trekking, from cycling to birdwatching, from archery to horse-riding. Heading north from Xanthi, we follow Chrysofylla roads. A tour of contrasts of the Rhodopes mountain range, signed by human intervention to exploit territory resources, mountain and hill villages exhibiting the traditional architecture of stone and wood. The genuine hospitality of local people is the confirmation that we are in the cradle of Thrace multiculturalism.



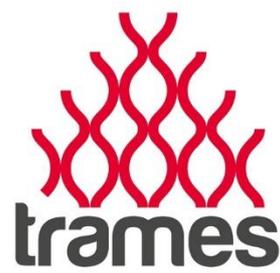
- **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Xanthi**,
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0030/2/541/022533,
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- **Riverland Outdoor Activities**,
Stathmós, Toxótes;
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We now move towards **Centaur**, along the mountain path dominated by green slopes and dense forests leading to some characteristic monasteries and small settlements perched on top of the mountain. A suggestive stop-over is the rock painting of Mithras in **Thermes**, right before the hot springs where you can also see an hammam or get some coffee. The last stop is **Kottani**, a small mountain settlement on the border with Bulgaria, where you should head for an unforgettable gastronomic stop to the characteristic Taverna Kottani, which offers Greek cuisine in a traditional building. To reach it, you have to follow a mountain road, partly unpaved.

Thrace's characteristics become more and more evident travelling inland. Following the other path of the Smart Way toward inwards, we enter the magical world of the Dryads, the mythological nymphs of the oaks. The mountain range of the central Rhodopes is rich in vegetation of unique value. The abandonment of settlements and livestock in the middle of last century has let nature grow unhindered. We head to **Stavroupoli**. Until the '60s/'70s, it was the centre of the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco; today, it is the only mountain municipality of Xanthi Prefecture, a starting point for excursions to the surrounding area. Leaving Nestos valley, we reach **Livaditis** village. From here, a well-marked path leads to the base of the waterfall, which falls from a height of 35 meters. It is possible to drive on towards the Village of the Forest of Erymanthos; then, passing through the Sarakatsani huts in Antamoma, we descend to **Kallithea** to return to Xanthi.



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Smart Way

Apulia Pathway



The Smart Way crossing ancient Apulia connects Mediterranean heritages and landscapes of both tangible and intangible culture. From Salento, starting from Santa Maria di Leuca with the cities of Minervino Di Lecce, Otranto and Mesagne, we follow in ancient Messapian civilizations' footsteps and cross landscapes of unspoilt coasts up to Punta Palascia Lighthouse, the easternmost tip of Italy. Heading north, the archaeological sites of Gnatia and Monte Sannace are on the way towards Bari and Barletta, following Hannibal's footstep, as well as the Peucetians' and the Daunians'.

The ideal starting point is **Capo Santa Maria di Leuca**, the Italian *finis terrae*, the southernmost tip of Salento Peninsula. A unique panorama is offered to the traveller: the coastal road heading north along the east coast, a cornice worthy of the most renowned scenic roads in the world. We drive down it, always in contact with a splendid sea, sometimes deviating from it to explore the immediate hinterland.



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Here is **Tricase** with its historic centre, the castle and ceramic production; **Poggiardo** with Vaste Archaeological Park dating back to the Messapian era, and the Rupestrian Church of Santi Stefani di Vaste; **Minervino di Lecce**, authentic village and land of dolmens; **Porto Badisco**, where Aeneas landed according to legend, and where the prehistoric remains of the Deer Cave fascinate; and Punta Palascia with the easternmost lighthouse of Italy.

We are now in the land of **Otranto**, a wonderful location with a long history admirably told in the Aragonese Castle; let yourself be enchanted by the cathedral, with the incredible XII century mosaic floor and the XI century crypt with forty-two monolithic marble columns.

Along Salento coast, cultural stimuli are intertwined with seaside promenades and tastings of traditional cuisine; it would be a shame not to plan a stop in the hinterland of **Galatina** to learn the secrets of pizzica and taranta, and to taste the pasticciotto, a classic sweet pastry. We are now on our way to **Lecce**, the capital of Apulian Baroque and the city of art par excellence, with the defensive walls interrupted by four city gates, the Roman amphitheatre, the cathedral and much more.

The road twists and turns towards **Brindisi**, the arrival point of the Appian Way and an extremely important commercial hub for the

tradings with the East.

Enclosed by the Aragonese walls of the XV century, the centre preserves splendid Romanesque churches such as the Church of San Giovanni al Sepolcro, dating back to the XII century, and the cathedral that partially preserves the original mosaic floor. Inland, **Mesagne** - an important centre of Messapic civilization - attracts travellers with its castle, monumental churches, the wealth of the vernacular heritage.

If you have time, from Mesagne you can imagine a detour to Taranto, one of the most important cities of Magna Graecia, whose history is admirably described in the National Archaeological Museum - MarTA.

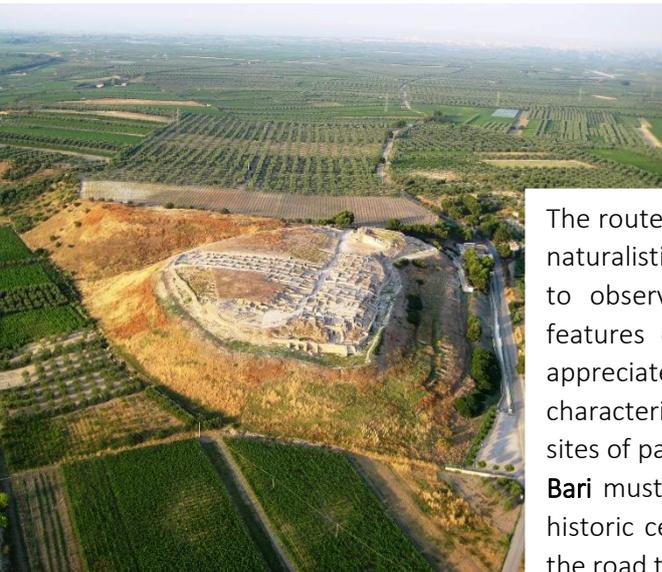
Our journey leads us to **Fasano** to discover the Archaeological Park of Gnatia, the ancient centre of the Messapians (*Egnatia* for the Romans, *Gnàthia* for the Greeks) on the border with Peucetia, along the so-called Messapian threshold. About forty kilometres away from Fasano heading inland, in **Gioia del Colle** we find the Archaeological Park of **Monte Sannace**, probably the ancient *Thuria* of literary sources. The built-up area of Monte Sannace represents the best-preserved city of ancient *Peucetia*, historical region corresponding to the current province of Bari.



• **Apulia Region,**
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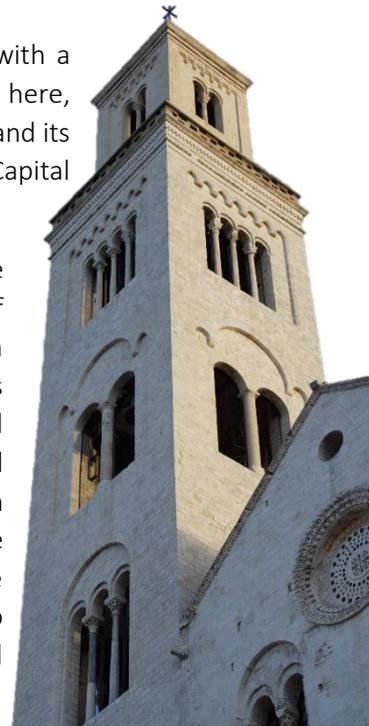
• **Parco dei Guerrieri di Vaste,**
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tel. +39 329 4483076



The route includes two itineraries, an archaeological one and a naturalistic one: in the first one, visitors are offered the chance to observe the topographical configuration and structural features of the ancient city; in the second one, they can appreciate the naturalistic-environmental and rural architecture characteristics (trulli, farms and so on) of the place and reach sites of particular landscape interest.

Bari must be visited as well: a crucial commercial city with a historic centre of great charm and attractiveness. From here, the road to Altamura, famous for its archaeological finds and its bread, and Matera with its 'Sassi' (caves), 2019 European Capital of Culture.

Then we head to **Barletta**, whose name is linked to the famous 1503 Challenge. Not far from the centre (don't miss the Norman Castle), **Canne della Battaglia** is the scene of the 216 BC battle, one of the most famous battles in history linked to a unique character: the Carthaginian Hannibal Barca. In his twenty-year war with Rome (Punic War II), in Canne della Battaglia he devised a strategy that is still studied in all military academies worldwide, inflicting a defeat on Rome that put his own survival at risk. To learn more, visit the *Antiquarium* at the foot of the fortified citadel and the Archaeological Park, with the remains of the ancient Daunian settlement and the structures of Roman, early Christian and medieval periods, which today offer visitors an articulated and charming journey. The visit to the Archaeological Park is divided into two paths: the first one leads to the main hill, where there were the arx, the fortress and the medieval town, with the castle and the basilica. The second one leads to the early Christian basilica, the area of the daunian dwellings, the furnace and the medieval burial ground.



From Barletta, it is possible to follow numerous *filis rouges* to continue the journey. Just north, the Margherita di Savoia Salt pans - the largest ones of the Mediterranean basin - and further on the Gargano promontory. Inland, the Daunian Mountains with Lucera and Bovino. Heading south, we get to Alta Murgia National Park, with **Castel del Monte**, a wonderful example of Frederick II architecture. Together with the Trulli of Alberobello, the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo in Monte Sant'Angelo and the Natural Reserve Foresta Umbra, it is one of the three Apulian sites officially recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Breath-taking landscapes between the unspoiled sea and olive groves as far as the eye can see, unique and exciting experiences for a Smart Way that rewards lesser known destinations where communities welcome contemporary travellers.

"Apulia has a distinctive and intangible added value: the warmth of a hospitable population, historically accustomed to welcoming travellers from the sea. The journey in Apulia is an experience to be faced with the five senses to capture its sounds, landscapes, shapes and flavours in order to understand the passions and traditions related to the culture, art and history of the area". (www.puglia.com)

Smart Way

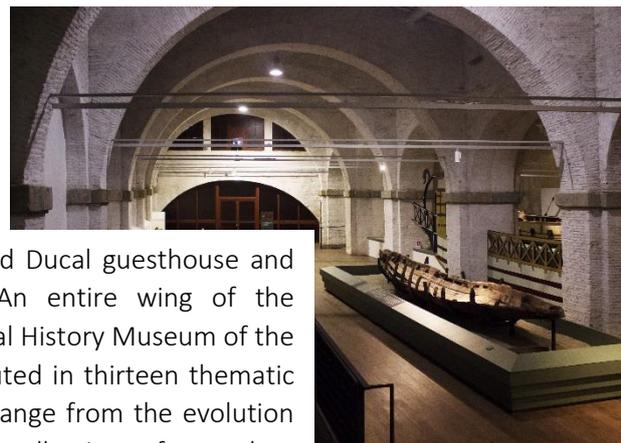
An itinerary between History and Nature



Nestled between the Serchio and

Arno valleys, the territory of Monte Pisano includes a small mountain chain - the highest peak, the Serra, reaches 917 meters - which extends north-east of Pisa, about thirty kilometres from the Tyrrhenian coast. Bring your walking shoes and your bicycle: a network of paths and ruts will lead you to a landscape dominated by vineyards and terraces of olive trees (here the Monti Pisani Oil Road winds) and, higher up, dominated by pine forests, chestnut, beech and oak trees.

Since the Bronze Age, the area of Monte Pisano has been inhabited by the Etruscans and Romans, whose centuriation are still visible. In the early centuries of the Christian era, the side of the mountain was the seat of hermitages in refuges and caverns. In the Middle Ages, it became a defensive bulwark of the Maritime Republic of Pisa. In the XVI century, influential noble families built here their "places of delight": some of these residences maintain the elegance and charm of the architecture, the interior frescoes and the gardens. Among these, Villa of Corliano offers dramatized guided tours such as the *Ghosts in Villa tour*.



Monte Pisano is linked to water and its springs: Asciano and Uliveto Terme, but also **San Giuliano Terme**, renowned thermal town from the Etruscan and Roman times. It is worth including a relaxing day at the Bagni di **Pisa** on the travel agenda: in 1743, the complex - now carefully restored - became the summer thermal residence of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Francesco Stefano di Lorena.

The proposed route - to be followed on foot or by bicycle - starts in Pisa with the Museum of Ancient Ships inside the former Arsenali Medicei, linked to an important archaeological find of 1998. About 30 ships emerged from the clay soil, dated between II and V centuries AD, telling the story of river and maritime navigation from the Etruscans to the end of the Roman Empire. Thousands of finds testify to the presence of rich commercial exchanges, customs, foods and curiosities.

From the city of the leaning tower, go north-east along the nine hundred and fifty-four arches of the Medici aqueduct towards **Asciano Pisano**, and then enter the small protected area of the **Valle delle Fonti**. Following the paths in the woods, you will reach **Calci** with the Pieve di Sant'Ermolao (Romanesque parish Church), a fine example of Pisan Romanesque style. This place is best known for the **Certosa di Pisa**, an imposing monastic complex of the Carthusian order of San Bruno, founded in 1366 and enlarged in XVII and XVIII centuries. From the baroque church, you enter the large cloister around which the cells are located; after that, the chapterhouse, the

refectory, up to the Grand Ducal guesthouse and the ancient pharmacy. An entire wing of the building houses the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa: distributed in thirteen thematic galleries, the exhibitions range from the evolution of dinosaurs to a wide collection of complete skeletons of cetaceans and archaeoceti. There is also a geology and mineralogy laboratory and a reconstruction of Monte Pisano from the Palaeozoic to the present day.

Following the cycle path along Monte Pisano, you reach **Uliveto Terme**, famous for its natural effervescent water rich in precious minerals: you can just go to the fountain that pours at the thermal baths and taste it. Following the route, you will cross **San Giovanni alla Vena**, famous for its ceramics: the oldest document mentioning a potter from San Giovanni dates back to 1384.

The proximity to the river allowed the extraction and use of sand as a raw material for ceramics, as well as transportation and trade to Pisa and Florence aboard the "navicelli", a characteristic sailing river boat. In **Vicopisano**, the splendid Pieve (Romanesque parish Church) di Santa Maria (XIII century) welcomes us, built in pink verrucano (very compact sandstone). Walking along the medieval alleys and tower houses, you reach the Praetorian Palace and the fifteenth-century fortress commissioned by the Florentines to Brunelleschi. Climbing to the highest point, from its top, the panorama ranges from the cultivated fields of the plain to the reliefs of this small green corner of Tuscany.



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• **City Grand Tour** - Pisa and Tuscany tour guides, tel. 3209154975, www.citygrandtour.it, citygrandtour@gmail.com

• **Caravanbacci srl**, Via Galileo Galilei 2, Loc. Lavoria, Crespina Lorenzana (PI); tel. 050 700313, www.caravanbacci.com, info@caravanbacci.com

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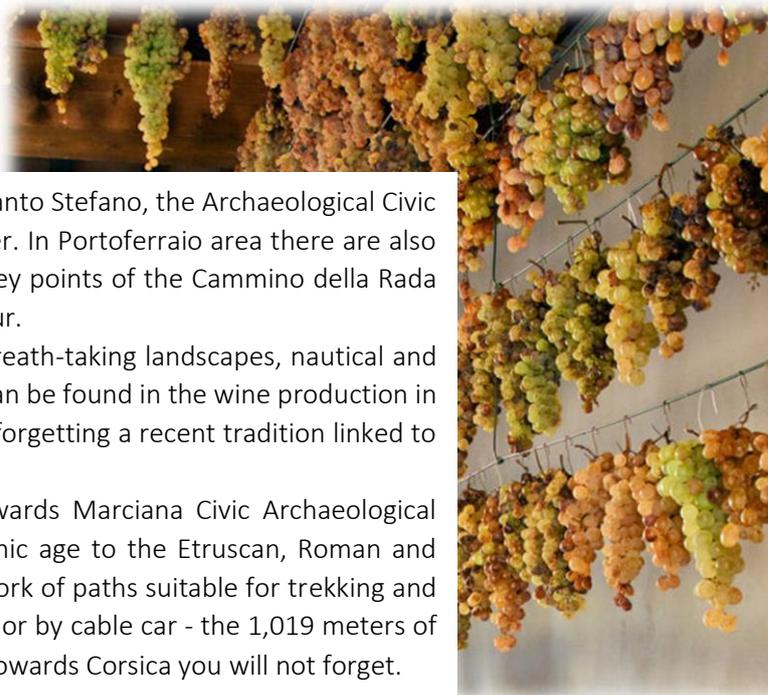
Elba Island



Portoferraio is the main landing place

for maritime connections from Piombino; it is the gateway to the largest island of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park. Its name already suggests the millenary mining activity that has been practiced since the Etruscan era, making it a real open-pit mining (see the box). The activity is fully documented in the Archaeological Museum of the Mining District and the **Rio Marina** Mineral Park on the eastern side; after the visit, provision should be made for a walk along the seafront and a stop in **Rio nell'Elba**, a small village in the hinterland where the monumental fountain with five mouths and the surprising public wash house with roof trusses tell the abundance of waters.

Let's go back to Portoferraio. The *Fabricia* of the Romans owes today's appearance to Cosimo de' Medici, who re-fortified the entire city in the XVI century after its destruction by the Saracens. Walking through the streets of the historic centre, next to the seafaring vocation, we can easily perceive Bonaparte influence: not far from Forte Falcone there is Villa dei Mulini, one of the two residences of the French emperor during his Elba exile.



In the city walk you should not miss the Romanesque church of Santo Stefano, the Archaeological Civic Museum, the Forte Stella with the lighthouse and Linguella Tower. In Portoferraio area there are also the Roman Villa of Linguella and the Roman Villa of the Caves, key points of the Cammino della Rada project, a hiking route twisting and turning to Portoferraio harbour.

Elba means also - and perhaps above all - unspoilt nature and breath-taking landscapes, nautical and land activities, an ancient food and wine tradition whose traces can be found in the wine production in amphoras, goat cheese, extra virgin olive oil and honey, without forgetting a recent tradition linked to the artisan production of chocolate.

To discover the ancient know-how of the island, we head towards Marciana Civic Archaeological Museum, which retraces the island's history from the Palaeolithic age to the Etruscan, Roman and medieval times. Not just history, though. At the centre of a network of paths suitable for trekking and mountain biking, **Marciana** is the starting point to climb - on foot or by cable car - the 1,019 meters of Mount Capanne: a view over the entire Tuscan Archipelago and towards Corsica you will not forget.



- **Official Elba Island website:**
www.visitelba.info

- **Arcipelago Toscano National Park**, Calata Italia 4, Portoferraio (LI);
tel. +39 0565 908231,
www.parcoarcipelago.info,
info@parcoarcipelago.info

- **Villa Romana delle Grotte**, SP26 Portoferraio (LI);
tel. +39 328 9115571,
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villadellegrotte@gmail.com

- **Elba Taste Consortium**,
Piazza di Chiesa 76,
S. Piero in Campo,
Campo nell'Elba (LI);
www.elbataste.com



THE ETRUSCANS IN CORTONA

To deepen the knowledge of this fascinating population, we suggest that you make a trip to the Arezzo area, in particular to Cortona, not far from the Umbrian shores of Lake Trasimeno. Here the visitor can make an authentic journey through the history of one of the richest and most powerful Etruscan cities. The itinerary starts from the MAEC - Museum of the Etruscan Academy and of the City of Cortona, which houses some of the most extraordinary masterpieces produced by this civilization. It continues with the mighty walls, the Porta Bifora (a double-arched gate) and a series of hypogeal tombs and structures. Near the city, the plain is dominated by the "meloni", Etruscan tombs of the archaic age, among which the Tumulo II del Sodo stands out, with its spectacular staircase-terrace decorated with sculptural and architectural elements in an orientalisising style. On the foothills, among the olive groves, you can visit the Tanella di Pitagora, a monument known since 1500, the Tanella Angori and the Tomb of Mezzavia. Towards the Trasimeno, there are the remains of the Villa di Ossaia of the late-republican and imperial age.

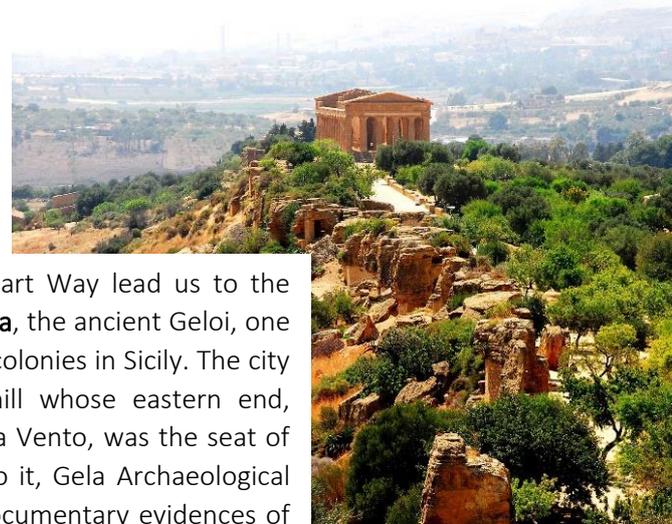
Smart Way

Antica Via Selinuntina



The Greeks of the Western world realized an arterial road along Sicilian coast, so as to connect the colonies of Akrai and Kasmenai, going on to Camarina, Gela, Agrigento up to Selinunte. The Via Selinuntina is named after it. Afterward, the Romans extended the route to Lilibeo (today's Marsala) and Erice. The 115 state road re-traces this route as heir of the Antica Via Selinuntina and the Phoenicians' Route offer it as a Sicilian original tour among archaeological sites, UNESCO sites, art cities, areas of environmental and landscape value.

The journey begins from **Syracuse**, the most important city of Greek Sicily. Its centre is Ortygia, located on the homonymous island and extraordinarily rich in monuments: among them, the Temple of Apollo and, overlooking one of the most evocative squares of Italy, the Cathedral of Syracuse, with baroque and rococo exterior, built incorporating the Temple of Athena in the current church. Nearby, the Fountain of Arethusa, body of water that flows into the Grand Port of Syracuse and takes its name from the myth of the nymph Arethusa and her lover Alpheus.



Ortygia, along with the Neapolis Archaeological Park, is UNESCO World Heritage Site, which contains most of the remains of ancient Syracuse. Among them, the Theatre, the Temple of Apollo, the Altar of Hieron, the Roman amphitheatre, the Latomie del Paradiso and di Santa Venera, ancient stone quarries surrounded by orange and secular trees enclosing suggestive caves such as the Grotta dei Cordari, Grotta del Salnitro and the Ear of Dionysius. Mighty walls converged from the sea to the hinterland in the Euryalus Fortress, located in Belvedere hamlet, a masterpiece of military architecture built between 402 and 397 BC.

From Syracuse, we can imagine a detour along the Via Elorina, heading south, to visit **Helorus**, near Noto, with its Baroque palaces - UNESCO World Heritage Site. Helorus' archaeology presents a wide sacred area, numerous temples and the Koreion, a sanctuary dedicated to Demeter and Kore. Following the Via Selinuntina, instead, we move inland towards the modern **Palazzolo Acreide**, where Akrai rose, founded by the Syracusans in 664 BC. Here we find the theatre, the bouleuterion and the acropolis with the foundation stones of the Temple of Aphrodite and yet the Santoni, a rocky sanctuary consecrated to the cult of the goddess Cybele. There are also the remains of Porta Selinuntina, a tangible sign of the road that connected to Kasmenai and Camarina.

Nest step of the Smart Way lead us to the western coast, to **Gela**, the ancient Geloï, one of the largest Greek colonies in Sicily. The city developed on the hill whose eastern end, today called Molino a Vento, was the seat of the acropolis: next to it, Gela Archaeological Museum provides documentary evidences of the ancient history of the area from prehistory to the medieval age. Driving alongside the sea towards north, Akragas, the medieval Girgenti and modern **Agrigento**: one of the most important Mediterranean poleis. The Archaeological Park Valle dei Templi - among the most visited cultural sites in Italy - is divided into several areas. A walk connects the Temple of Juno to the Temple of Concordia and the Temple of Heracles. The Temple of Concordia, the best-preserved Doric temple, was converted into a Christian basilica in the VI century and dedicated to the apostles Peter and Paul. The Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Temple of the Dioscuri follow, together with the sacred area consecrated to the cult of the Chthonic deities (Demeter and Kore); in the end, the Colimbeta and the Temple of Hephaestus (Vulcan). The Temple of Olympian Zeus is characterized by colossal dimension and a sequence of huge sculptures (the Telamones) on the external wall, in between the columns. After the Archaeological site of **Heraclea Minoa**, with its evocative Theatre, the next stop is **Menfi**.



- **The Phoenicians' Route**, www.fenici.net, fenici.sicilia@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/larottadeifenici, www.instagram.com/rottadeifenici

- **Sicily en PleinAir** Camping&Village, tel. +39 0932918391 + 39 09329793062, info@scarabeocamping.it

- **Interpretation Centre Via Selinuntina - Palazzo Pignatelli**, P.za V. Emanuele III, Menfi (AG)

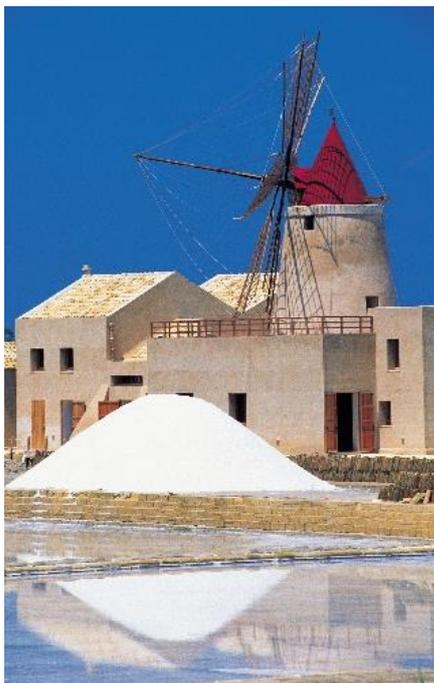
- **Interpretation Centre of the Phoenicians' Route - Palazzo Panitteri**, Via Panitteri 1, Sambuca di Sicilia (AG)

- **VisitSicily**, www.visitsicily.info

A Punic-Roman wreck has been found in the nearby seaboard of Porto Palo, now housed in the Palazzo Pignatelli, where there is also an Interpretation Centre of the Phoenicians' Route. **Sambuca di Sicilia** awaits us about twenty kilometres inland, one of the “Borghi più Belli d'Italia”, with its Saracen district and the archaeological site of Monte Adranone; the archaeological museum set up in the seventeenth-century Palazzo Panitteri is worth a visit, and there you can also find an Interpretation Centre of the Phoenicians' Route.



Selinunte is another great Mediterranean city of antiquity and owes its name to selinon, a wild parsley growing near the mouth of the river Modione. Thanks to its position, it developed fruitful trade especially with the Punic living in the western part of Sicily and in nearby Carthage. Involved in the hostilities among the Greeks and between the Greeks and the Punic, it was destroyed by the Carthaginians in 409 BC. The city was reduced to its Acropolis, protected by walls inspired by the Euryalus Fortress of Syracuse, and became an important Punic commercial port. The dimension of the Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Cave di Cusa and Pantelleria, its urban structure and the numerous temples testify the lost grandeur. The Temples on the Acropolis, the ones on the Eastern Hill, including the Temple E rebuilt in 1956 and the unfinished Temple G - one of the largest in the ancient world - are worth a visit. At about twelve kilometres, there are the **Cave di Cusa**, a unique example of open-air quarries abandoned during processing: a succession of capitals, columns and pieces extracted from the calcarenite bench and abandoned in the various stages of processing and transport.



We head to **Marsala** (from the Arab Mars Allah, "God's harbour"), known worldwide for its fortified wine to be tasted at Palazzo Fici, home of the Marsala Doc Wine Route. Ancient Lilybaeum was founded by the Phoenicians. Its history is illustrated in the Baglio Anselmi Archaeological Museum, where the wreckage of a Punic warship can be visited. Here is the westernmost tip of Sicily: Capo Boeo or Lilibeo. From here, you can see the splendid **Island of Mozia** in the centre of the Stagnone Lagoon: it is the only Phoenician city preserved to this day, which can be reached by boat from the historic pier. Walking along the paths of the island is a journey back in time between ancient buildings and places: the Cothon, the Tophet, the Sanctuaries and the North Gate; the Whitaker Museum as well, with the statue of the Mozia Charioteer (or young man from Mozia), dating back to the V century BC. The white salt pans surrounding the island and extending up to Trapani dominate the landscape, telling the ancient tradition of salt extraction from sea water: an evocative environment that is home to rare species such as the pink flamingo. A timeless landscape dominated by Mount San Giuliano and the medieval town of **Erice**, another important Phoenician centre, as evidenced by the remains of ancient Elymian and Phoenician walls and the Temple of Astarte, on whose ruins the Norman castle stands. To understand the treasure chest of handicrafts that welcomes us, you just have to wander around its narrow streets: from ceramics to rugs and exquisite conventual pastry.

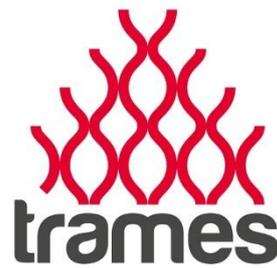
Smart Way

Malta Island



The smallest state of the European Union expands across a small archipelago of six islands - the main ones being Malta, Gozo and Comino - a hundred kilometres south of the Sicilian coast, between the western and eastern Mediterranean. A strategic position that over the centuries has attracted Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans and Byzantines, as well as French and English civilizations. Their passage has left an indelible mark on the language - which from the harsh sounds of Arabic easily switches to the harmony of Latin languages - and on architecture, which houses megalithic temples a millennium older than the pyramids of Giza, baroque chapels, neo-Gothic churches and medieval basilicas.

The starting point of the Smart Way is **Valletta**, the capital city of Malta, whose name is linked to Jean de la Valette, Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller, who founded the city in 1566. Fortified city whose walls seem to contain it by force, the centre occupies the tip of a peninsula, a long finger extending between il-Port il-Kbir and Marsamxett Harbour.



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Just walk along the intertwining streets to admire the three hundred and twenty buildings and monuments recognised as World Heritage Site by UNESCO: among them, St. John's Co-Cathedral, symbol of the wealth and power of the Knights Hospitaller. In Auberge de Provence (1571), the National Museum of Archaeology re-traces the origins of the island. The ground floor is dedicated to the Neolithic period, with vestiges from the era of the Great Temples, including the famous statuette of the Venus of Malta found in the site of Ħaġar Qim; the first floor is dedicated to the Bronze Age with the Phoenician-Punic, Roman, Byzantine and Muslim periods. In front of Valletta there are three villages whose names are full of history: Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua, a defensive trio whose walls plunge into the sea, with haughty buildings and steep roads. Abandoned after the war, they were reborn with the redevelopment of the port. Behind the docks, Città **Vittoriosa** offers extraordinary views of Valletta. At its head, Fort St. Angelo was built by the Arabs on the site of an ancient Phoenician temple in 870. Afterwards, the fort was enlarged with the arrival of the knights between 1530 and 1574 and became the seat of the Grand Master. Located on a narrow promontory overlooking the harbour, **Senglea** was founded in 1551 by the Grand Master Claude de la Sengle and represented a resting place for the knights. Thanks to the heroic resistance during the Great Siege, the city was given the honorary title of Unconquered City.

Inhabited since Neolithic times, the port of **Cospicua** dates back to the 1722. From the southern entrance, the city's fortifications (the

Santa Margherita Lines and the Cottonera Lines) give you an idea of the extent of the Maltese defence system of the XVII and XVIII centuries.

For ancient history enthusiasts, a visit to the south-eastern area of the island is fundamental, where main Maltese archaeological sites are located (Tarxien, Ħal Saflieni, Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra): megalithic temples testifying to the architectural talent of a mysterious population of builders. Guided tours are organized by Heritage Malta upon reservation. The Tarxien temples are particularly interesting for their carving details ranging from pets carved in relief to altars and screens decorated with spiral designs.

The arid, low and straight coast draws a line of bays carved in the rock to the east; there is no itinerary that follows the coast, the narrow streets bordered by low walls lead to picturesque villages and colourful harbours, such as **Marsaxlokk**, towards the southern cliffs. In this bay, now denaturalised by the port and tourism infrastructures, the Phoenicians established their emporiums in the VIII century BC. In 1565, the Ottoman fleet settled here, during the Great Siege of Malta. Among the boats in the port, you will find the luzzu: a traditional boat in bright colours, with Horus eye on the bow recalling the Phoenician boats. This area offers beautiful beaches such as the so-called St. Peter's Pool, east of Marsaxlokk, or the bay of Qala it-Tawwalija. You can walk or swim towards Kalanka tal-Gidien, a beautiful cove with rocks shaped by ancient salt pans.



• Visit Malta,
www.visitmalta.com

• Malta Tourism
Authority,
tel. +356 22915000,
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Heading north from Valletta, the journey through time leads to the town of **Naxxar**, along narrow streets limited by dry stone walls and wavy hills. Along the main artery of the centre, Palazzo Parisio is worth a visit: built in 1733 by Portuguese Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena, the palace was acquired by Marquis Giuseppe Scicluna in 1898, who decided to completely and magnificently restore this noble rural residence surrounded by a beautiful garden.

The tour ends in **Mellieha**. We are in the Northern Region of Malta, famous for hosting some of the most beautiful and crystalline beaches of the island: Għadira Bay, Armier Bay, the Għadira Nature Reserve and Popeye Village. The caves around the city have hosted local population until the beginning of the Middle Ages, but remains of temples, caves, tombs and tools dating from the Neolithic era have been found in the area.

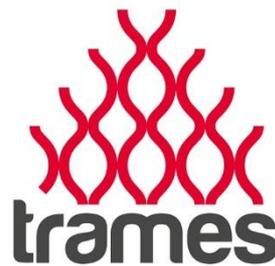
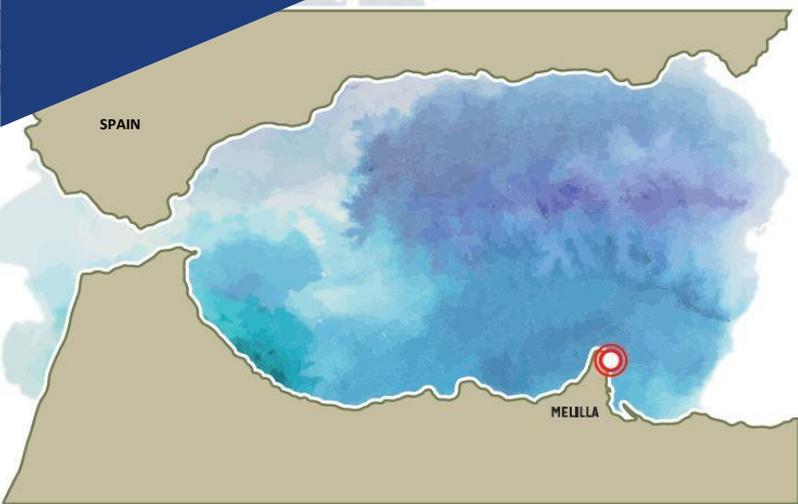
From Valletta, heading west, the road passes through several villages, once rural areas, today part of a seamless and densely populated urban structure. In this part of the island, made up of baroque chapels, terraces and a cobalt blue sea, which is less touristy, Malta partly regains its authenticity, both along the coast and inland. Following the route, you reach **Mdina** (Medina in the Italianized form), and **Rabat**, two cities separated by ramparts and moats, once united in Melita, the ancient capital city of Malta, the "honey city" of Carthaginians and Romans. Mdina, which dominates the island from the top of its promontory, earned the name of "city of silence": a few hundred people now live in its cobbled medieval streets, but it preserves the vestiges of a past both ancient and glorious. Mdina, together with Valletta, is a Maltese glass production centre characterized by a decoration with intense colours typical of the Mediterranean area; some businesses let you assist to the creation of objects with glass-blowing technique. Rabat, for its part, has a rhythm of life different from the one of Mdina. Although it is rather small in size - the word rabat has Arabic origin and means suburb - the town is rich in history: Christian tradition considers it the place where St. Paul stayed in Malta, founder of the first Christian community on the island. After a visit to the Wignacourt Museum, the Domus Romana and Bernard House, you should taste a *pastizz* before leaving, a traditional Maltese pastry filled either with ricotta cheese or mushy peas: Rabat is one of the best places to enjoy it.



Smart Way Melilla

There are two autonomous Spanish cities in Northern Africa: Ceuta, guarding the Strait of Gibraltar, and Melilla, overlooking the Mediterranean from the eastern side of Cape Three Forks peninsula. Immersed in the heart of Rif region, this enclave counts eighty thousand inhabitants sharing a territory of 12,338 square kilometres and is entirely surrounded by the border with Morocco. The population is composed by Spanish Christians and Berber Muslims and its history has been marked by a continuous redesign of the borders. Its multicultural and cross-border charm is also linked to the important legacies left by the passage of Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines and Arabs; a meeting of cultures that is still shown by the coexistence of Christians, Muslims, Jews and - more recently - Hindus. Spanish from an administrative point of view but also for its soul and urban fabric, Melilla boasts more than nine hundred art deco and modernist buildings – it is the Spanish city with the largest number of modernist-style buildings after Barcelona – and lively tapas bars.





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Many tourists come here for the curious experience of being in Europe on African soil, but they find much more than that: a magnificent well-preserved medieval fortress, interesting museums, suggestive views of the Mediterranean, pretty city beaches and tasty gastronomy that mixes Arabic and Spanish cuisine.

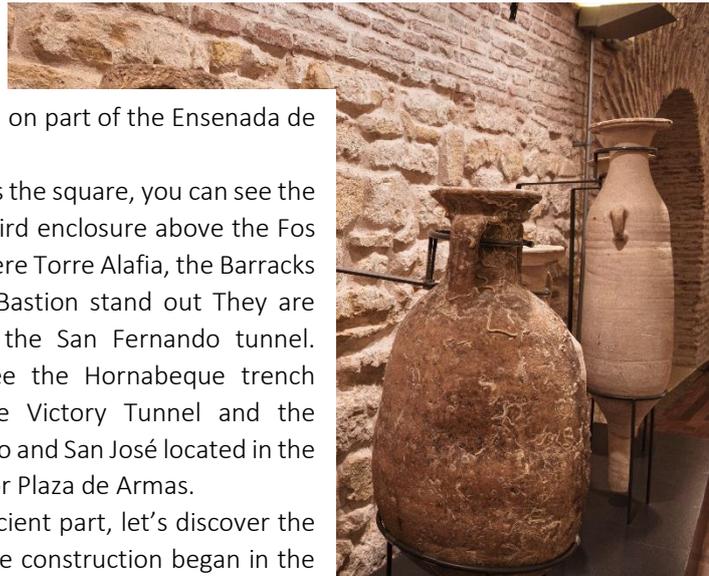
The symbol of the city is **Melilla la Vieja** (also called El Pueblo), a complex stronghold built by the Spaniards between the XVI and XVII centuries on a cliff facing the Mediterranean, connected to the mainland by an isthmus. It is truly a city within the city, which originally consisted of four citadels connected one another by drawbridges. Puerta de la Marina is the main entrance: from there, you can climb to the top of the fortress to enjoy a beautiful view of the Mediterranean. During your walk, you will come across the Museo Etnográfico de las Culturas Amazigh y Sefardi, dedicated to Berber and Jewish cultures; the Caves of the Monastery (Cuevas de Conventico), a network of tunnels dug by the Phoenicians and used several times over the centuries as a refuge during the sieges of the city; the seventeenth-century Iglesia de la Purísima Concepción, one of the oldest and most beautiful churches in Melilla; the Military Museum, which displays medals, military flags and other finds. The Puerta y Capilla de Santiago is also notable (the only religious building in Gothic style in the entire African continent), and the Museum of Archaeology and History of Melilla located inside the Torre della Vela. In front of the Plaza de las Cuatro Culturas, you will find the ancient Melilla dating back to the XIX century, formed by the small and charming neighbourhoods of San Carlos Fort, San Miguel Fort, Alcazaba and Mantelete. From the square, you can go up to Alcazaba road to appreciate the panorama on the

Frente de Tierra and on part of the Ensenada de los Galápagos.

Going down towards the square, you can see the balustrade of the third enclosure above the Fos de los Carneros, where Torre Alafia, the Barracks and San Fernando Bastion stand out. They are accessible through the San Fernando tunnel. Finally, you can see the Hornabeque trench before crossing the Victory Tunnel and the Bastions of San Pedro and San José located in the second compound or Plaza de Armas.

After visiting the ancient part, let's discover the external forts, whose construction began in the XIX century. From Fuerte de Camellos you will continue along that of Cabrerizas and you will end the walk in that of Rostrogordo, at the northern end of the city-state.

The walk across the new city begins with the splendid and lively **Plaza de España**, a circular urban space behind the port; from this point the main city arteries branch off. The Casino Militar designed by Enrique Nieto, Gaudi's pupil, and the headquarters of the Banco de España overlook them. The Palacio de la Asamblea, seat of the Town Hall, is not far from there. Built in the first half of the XX century, on the base of Enrique Nieto's project as well, it has three floors arranged in such a way that the shape of the building resembles a ducal crown. The interior can be visited upon request, with the Salon Dorado and the Sala de Plenos, seat of the City Council. From here, the streets that make up the Barrio de Reina Victoria (now Heroes of Spain) are worth visiting; it is also known as the "Golden Triangle". On the opposite side of Plaza de España, the entrance to Hernández Park leads you into the green where you can relax in the shade of palm trees.



• **Autonomous City of Melilla,**
www.melillaturismo.com

• **Tourist office,**
Plaza de las Culturas, 1
L 3, Melilla;
tel: 0034/952/976190,
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info@melillaturismo.com

Smart Way

Iberians' Andalusia

Between the VII and I centuries BC, in the area of southern Spain corresponding to the current provinces of Jaén, Cordoba and Granada, the Iberians left an extraordinary archaeological heritage, witness of a culture - partly still unknown - which lost its identity, customs, language and writing with the Roman conquest. This widespread heritage is the *fil rouge* of the Iberians' Andalusia Smart Way, divided into three thematic tourist itineraries.





Jaén – A journey to the time of the Iberians

consists of nine places in the province of Jaén, including the fortified cities of Cástulo in Linares, Puente Tablas in Jaén and Giribaile in Vilches, the sanctuary of the Cueva de la Lobera in Castellar, the princely tombs of Toya and Hornos in Peal de Becerro and the sculptural sets Cerrillo Blanco de Porcuna and El Pajarillo de Huelma. The latter is visible in the museums of Jaén: the ideal starting point of the proposed itinerary. The **Museo Ibero in Jaén** offers a thematic exhibition - *The Lady, the Prince, the Hero, and the Goddess* - discovering four emblematic figures of the Iberian world and its aristocratic society, retraced through more than three hundred archaeological finds. It is worth mentioning the grave goods from the Burial Chamber of Piquía de Arjona and the Santuario Heroico de El Pajarillo (Huelma), dating back to the IV century BC. Nearby, the Museo Ibero in Jaén houses the impressive Iberian sculptural group of Cerrillo Blanco of Porcuna: the sculptures, dating back to the V century BC, tell the story of an aristocratic lineage depicting fights between warriors striking for workmanship and realism.

Four kilometres from Jaén, the journey continues with the **Oppidum Ibero in Puente Tablas**. The access point to the fortified city and one of the most interesting sites of the entire complex is the monumental Puerta del Sol, built

at the beginning of the IV century BC and oriented to the east, towards the sunrise.

During the spring equinox and the fall equinox, that is, between March 20th and 25th and between September 20th and 25th, the first rays of dawn illuminates the figure of the female divinity to whom a sanctuary near the door is dedicated. Next to it there is also a shrine built on terraces, where several caves stand out and that most likely were part of an oracular rite. The urban layout of the city is configured in a quadrangular grid designed by parallel streets running along the entire length of the oppidum. At its end, there is the palace of the Iberian prince, with a boardroom in a patio with columns, a banquet hall, an ancestral chapel, warehouses, ovens and even a cellar. About fifty kilometres north is the **Iberian-Roman city of Castulo (Linares)**, whose prestige was linked to its strategic position in the Upper Guadalquivir and the thriving mining of silver, lead and copper in the Sierra Morena. The centre played an important role during the Second Punic War, leading to the conquest of the Guadalquivir Valley by Rome. Walking along the walls, you reach the highest part of the city, where in recent times the famous León de Cástulo - a surprising Iberian-Roman sculpture - was discovered together with the Mosaico de los Amores, considered one of the greatest discoveries of 2012.



• **Province of Cordoba,**
www.cordobaturismo.es,
turismo@cordobaturismo.es

• **Province of Granada,**
turismo@turgranada.es
www.turgranada.es

• **Province of Jaén,**
www.jaenparaisointerior.es,
turismo@dipujaen.es

The Tower of Alba rises nearby, built when Hannibal married the Castilian princess Himilce. About forty kilometres west from Jaén, there is the **Necropolis of Cerrillo Blanco (Porcuna)**, one of the most emblematic places of Iberian culture: the sculptures, dating back to the V century BC and currently exhibited in Jaén Museum, are particularly important.

From Jaén, you have to travel about fifty kilometres southwest to reach Ibroso and its intact Cyclopean Walls, now integrated into the urban area: a significant architectural element of Iberian culture. Recent studies have identified this type of cyclopean structures with fortified towers and enclosures dating back to the period between the II and I centuries BC.



Granada - Death Valley

The itinerary includes some of the most important necropolises of the Iberian world: Tútugi in Galera and the Sanctuary of Baza. The proposal also intersects the Journey to the Time of the Iberians at the princely tombs of Toya and Hornos in Peal de Becerro in Jaén.

With over one hundred and thirty burials, the **Iberian-Roman Necropolis of Tútugi**, about one hundred and forty kilometres north-west from Granada, is one of the largest Iberian necropolises in the country. Here, in 1916, the famous Lady of Galera was found, currently exhibited in the National Archaeological Museum of Madrid (a copy can be admired in the Archaeological Museum of **Galera**). Dating back to the VII century BC, it is a small alabaster sculpture representing Astarte, the Phoenician goddess of fertility, sitting next to two sphinxes with a large bowl in her lap.

From here, proceeding towards Granada, after about forty-five kilometres you reach the **archaeological area of Basti (Baza)**, an Iberian-Roman city with two necropolises. In one of them the statue of the Lady of Baza was discovered, dating back to the IV century BC. Its environment offers different natural landscapes such as the **Geopark** recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, an ideal setting for trekking and mountain biking.



Cordova - The last Iberian lineages

A proposal dedicated to the final phase of the Iberian culture and to the beginning of its cultural hybridization after the conquest of Rome. The three sites concerned are Torreparedones in Baena, Cerro de la Cruz in Almedinilla and Cerro de la Merced de Cabra. In the *Oppidum* of Ipolca di Porcuna there is the point of intersection with the Journey to the Time of the Iberians.

The Iberian settlement of Cerro de la Cruz (**Almedinilla**) is an *Oppidum*, or fortified city, dating back to the II century BC. Located on artificial terraces and narrow streets, the city was at its peak when a fire destroyed the entire site; this event coincides with the retaliation of the Romans against the cities allied with Viriato during his revolt.



Videogame

Along the Phoenicians' routes

From 1200 BC to the Siege of Carthage: a virtual time travel

following the expansion of the Phoenician population. This is the theme of **Mediterranean 1200 BC: a new age**, a videogame for smartphones – compatible both with iOS and Android – developed by Entertainment Game App within the scope of the European project TRAMES. Fifty levels led the player to the discovery of over one hundred and ten cities scattered on the coasts of *Mare Nostrum* linked together by the trade routes of the Phoenicians. Thus, the player also comes into contact with other populations – such as the Etruscans, Greeks and Romans – who inhabited the lands overlooking the Mediterranean at the time when the game is set. Gold, silver, bronze, copper, glass, oil, ivory, cloths, food: exchanged materials reflect the characteristics of the trades of the time as well. Moreover, 3D models of boats accurate down to the smallest detail are employed for the transport of loads. Finally, the possibility of unlocking exclusive awards by geolocating yourself in museums and archaeological sites affiliated with the videogame is particularly interesting. By doing so, it will be possible to access special contents opening new doors or telling about one of the artefacts kept in the museum or archaeological site. A creative and pleasant way to encourage tourism in the Mediterranean area, promoting local communities and their treasures of history, art and archaeology as well.

