

#TARANTO
forCRUISESHIPS

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Port of Taranto

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION



TARANTO is in a baricentric position, in between Suez and Gibraltar, with respect to the East and West Mediterranean routes of cruise ships. It is about 1000 nautical miles from Suez.



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Taranto, the ancient cradle of Magna Graecia

Rich with monuments, theatres, temples and schools, made wealthy thanks to agricultural production and trade exchanges with the homeland, Taranto (then called Taras) was known as the capital of **Magna Graecia**.

«**The pearl in the Ionian Sea**», Taranto is a bridge between East and West.

The massive **Doric columns** are the remains of a temple facing the sea, dedicated either to a God or a Goddess – it is still uncertain whether it was Poseidon or Aphrodite.

As in many cities in the Magna Graecia, the great **Goddess Persephone** was worshipped also in Taranto. A great statue depicting the Goddess can be admired in the Archaeological Museum.

HISTORY OF THE CITY



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Sparta and Taranto, mother and daughter

Taranto was founded in 706 BC by a young Spartan warrior named **FALANTO**, the only colony far from the homeland. Before leaving, Falanto was told the following words by the Delphi Oracle: **"When you see rain from the clear sky, you will overtake territory and city."** During the voyage, his ship was wrecked. Falanto was rescued by a **dolphin**, hence the symbol of the city, and led to shore. Falanto, exhausted, fell asleep on the knees of his wife Etra, who started crying. Falanto, whose face was wet with the tears of Etra (clear sky), understood the sense of that prophecy that until then seemed like a puzzling enigma. Thus, after having landed on the East coast at Saturo, the Spartans moved westward to found the ancient **TARAS**.





Ikkos - The Athlete from Taranto

At the dawn of human history, the ancient Greeks put at the core of their civilization physical activity, which was the greatest expression of strength, loyalty, respect: values which are celebrated in sports even today. According to some, one of the greatest athletes of his time was born in Taranto: **IKKOS**.

The skeleton found in Taranto and exhibited at the **National Archaeological Museum** is known as "the athlete from Taranto", winner of the Panathenaic games.



DID YOU KNOW

Today the legacy of **IKKOS** is still alive and represented by the athletes that have received the medal of the **ORDER OF IKKOS**, which symbolizes that coaching, hard work and respect are fundamental in sports.

MEET FAMOUS
PEOPLE FROM
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Rodolfo Valentino

It is not an exaggeration to use the term “legend” when referring to Rodolfo Valentino. The silent film era star was born in 1895 in **Castellaneta**, a town about half an hour’s drive from Taranto, and became famous in America thanks to his charming looks, becoming known as Latin Lover.



DID YOU KNOW

During his trips to Italy Valentino met the most famous poets of the time, among which D’Annunzio. The actor used to write his own poems, such as the following:

Italy

*The earth is earth - that is its worth,
To men who walk below.
But to the soul that seeks its goal,
Each land is all they know.
One calls it Home, another Heart,
another Property,
But to the one who loves the sun
He calls it Italy.”*

MEET FAMOUS
PEOPLE FROM
TARANTO



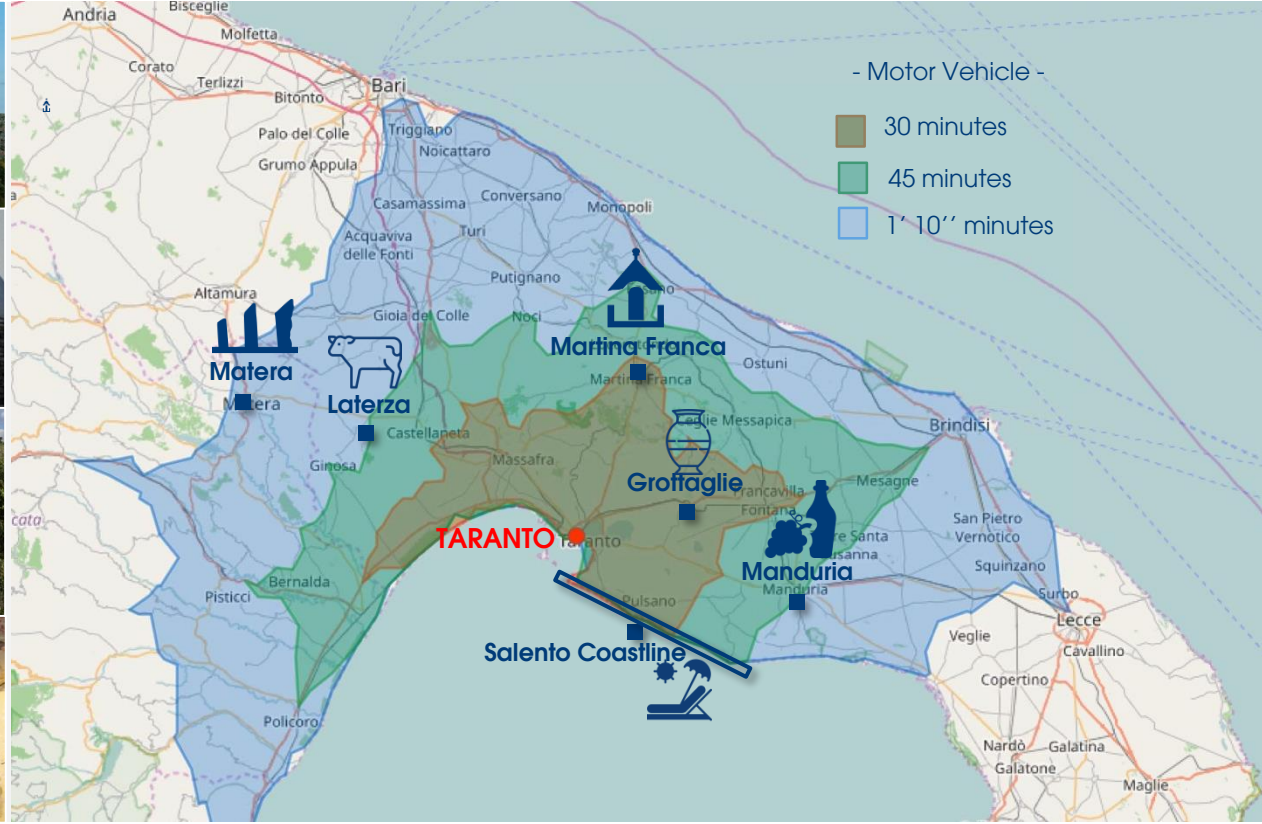
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ATTRACTIONS IN
THE NEARBY
AREAS
AND IN THE CITY

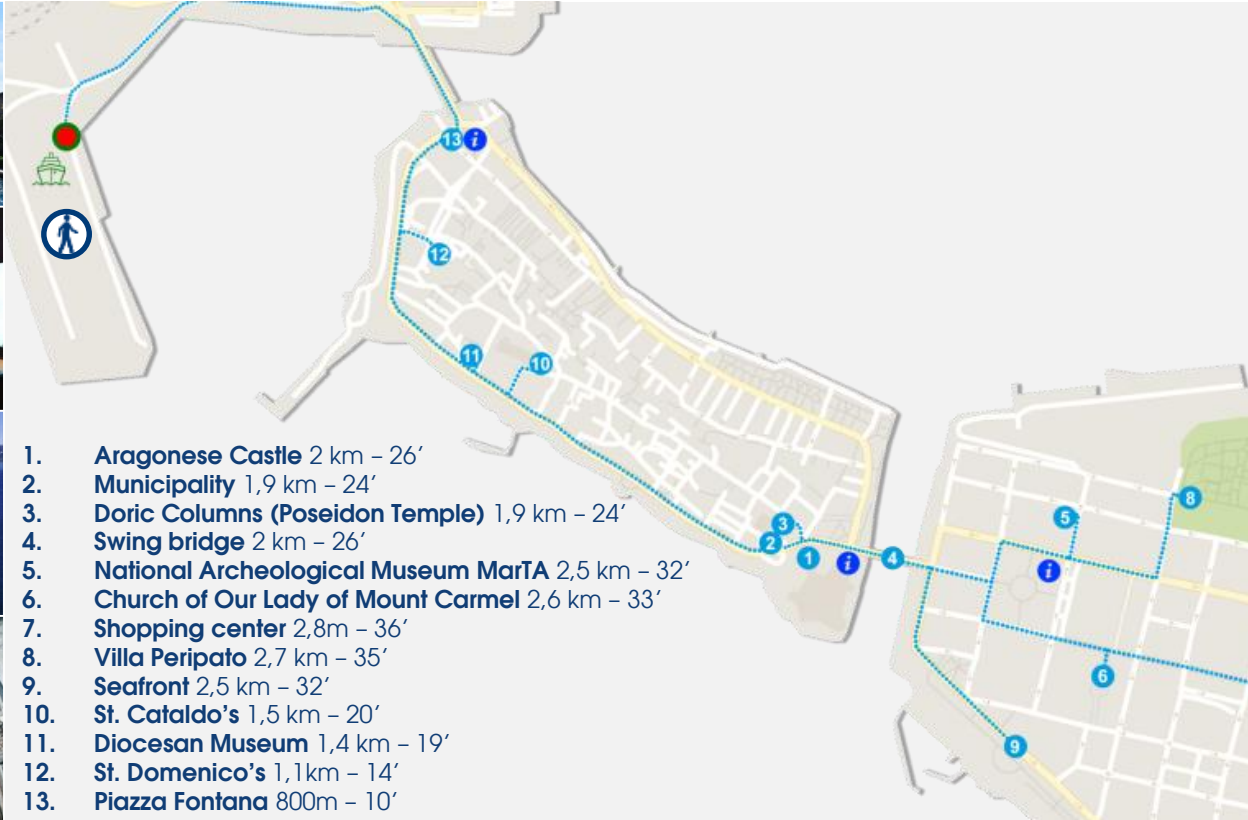


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ATTRACTIONS IN THE NEARBY AREAS AND IN THE CITY

5 REASONS TO VISIT TARANTO

MARVEL AT HISTORY AND CULTURE



You will feel like travelling in time while walking around the Ionian city, from its Spartan origins **3000 years** ago, to the Renaissance. Just a hour's drive from Taranto, discover one of the most ancient cities in the world, **Matera**.

SAVOUR FOOD AND WINE



Taste Mediterranean flavors and fish based specialties in the small restaurants in the **Old Town** of Taranto. Take a tour in the nearby villages centuries-old olive groves and vineyards where extra virgin **olive oil** and delicious **DOC (Controlled Designation of Origin)** and IGT (Typical Geographical Indication) **wines** like Primitivo and Negramaro are made.

DISCOVER TRADITIONS



Discover how artisans still craft beautifully decorated **vases**, dishes and lamps in **Grottaglie**. This century old art is still alive in the village where a handful of workshops are open to visitors and display colorful creations.

ADVENTURE CALLING



There's plenty of fish in the sea, especially in Taranto! Well not fish but actually mammals. Go on **boat tours** to spot **dolphins** in the gulf of Taranto. For **trekking** lovers, the gravine (ravines) of the **valley of Itria** are the place to go.

RELAX ON THE BEACH



Treat yourself to a beach day on the famed **Salento coastline**, featuring **crystal blue water** and white sand, dotted by lavender and the typical "Mediterranean shrub".



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MARVEL AT HISTORY AND CULTURE



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The Old City of Taranto

Taranto is known as the **CITY OF TWO SEAS**, as its Old Town lies on an island at the meeting point between two seas (the open sea, Mar Grande, and a wide bay with two inlets, Mar Piccolo). This strategic location has put it at the heart of important historical events.



DID YOU KNOW

*The Old City is characterized by narrow alleys and streets. The city was planned on purpose with the aim to protect the inhabitants from attackers; in fact it is difficult for two people to walk along the streets of the Old City side by side. One of these streets is known as «**Vicolo del Bacio**» (Kiss Alley), as it is impossible for people who cross this road not to brush against each other.*

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CULTURE



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The Aragonese Castle

Overlooking the Ionian sea, Taranto's famous Renaissance ancient fortress, the **Aragonese Castle**, was built in the 15th century by the King of Naples Ferdinand of Aragona.

Today, there are guided tours of the Castle every day and also many events and exhibitions going on throughout the year.



DID YOU KNOW

The Castle was chosen as a location for Michael Bay's new film "Six Underground" with Ryan Reynolds and Melanie Laurent. The scenes were shot on the "Kismet", the famous 95 m long mega yacht which berthed at the Castle for a few days.

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MarTA

As the ancient capital of Magna Graecia, Taranto houses one of the most important archaeological museums, the **National Archaeological Museum of Taranto**, also called the **MarTA**, boasting one of Italy's most important archeological collections.

The main attraction of the museum is the impressive collection of ancient gold jewellery, the most extensive in all of Italy.

An incredible display of beautiful bracelets, elegant earrings and precious artifacts shows the evolution of the “**gold-work**” in the city between the 5th and 3rd centuries BC.



DID YOU KNOW

The Ministry of National Heritage and Culture financed the videogame app **Past For Future**, about the mysterious disappearance of a woman in Taranto that a boy of London will investigate discovering the treasures in the National Archaeological Museum.



Play Store



App Store

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MUDI - Diocesan Museum

Considered one of the largest museum complexes in Italy, the **Mudi (Diocesan Museum)** is set up in the former Archiepiscopal seminary of Taranto in the heart of the historic centre, just a stone's throw from the Cathedral.

The museum displays more than **300 artworks** which walk the visitor through the ecclesiastical and religious history of the province from the 7th to the 20th century, through sacred furniture, relics, sculptures and paintings of exceptional cultural value, such as the "Assumption of the Virgin Mary" attributed to Domenico Carella, or the precious "Ecce Homo" by Paolo De Matteis.

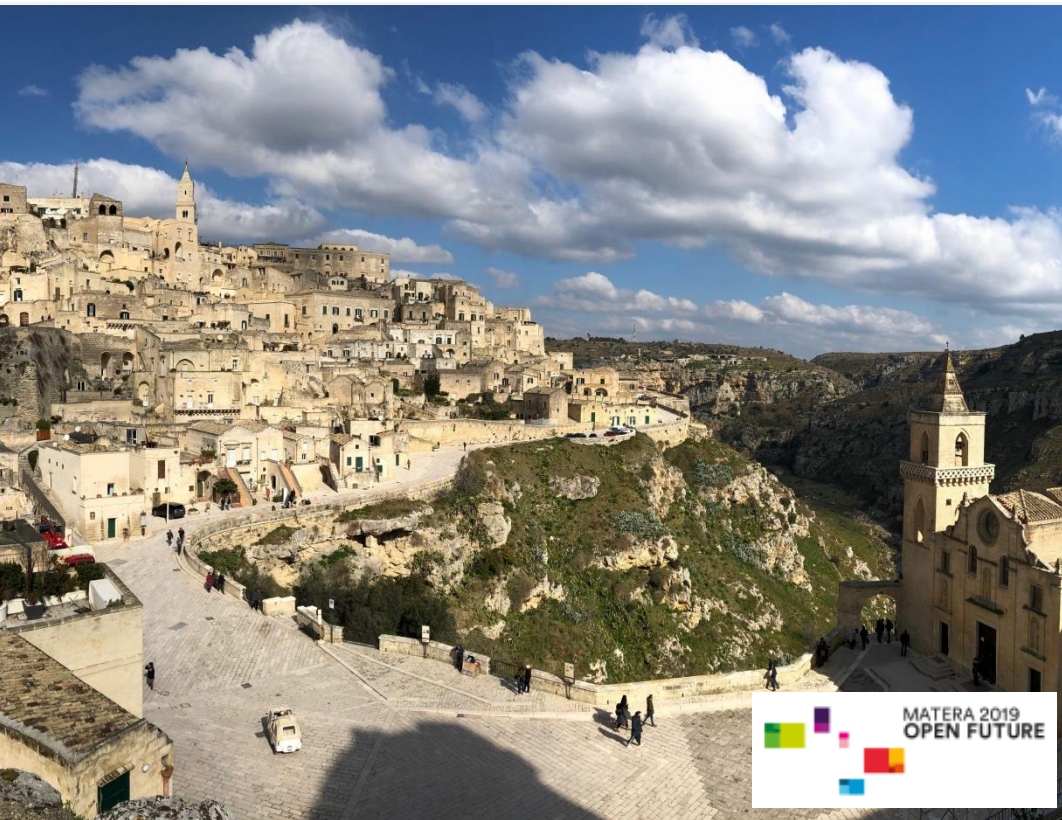


DID YOU KNOW

The biggest topaz in the world (more than 1.5 Kg) is exhibited at the MuDi.

MARVEL AT
HISTORY AND
CULTURE





Matera

European Capital of Culture 2019

About an hour's drive away from Taranto lies the ancient Cave city of Matera. You will feel like travelling in time while visiting this city, one of the oldest human settlements in the world, having been populated since 10.000 B.C.

Declared a **UNESCO World Heritage** in 1993, today Matera is the **European Cultural Capital** for the year 2019



DID YOU KNOW

The Sassi were made world-famous in 2005 when Mel Gibson's movie **"The Passion"** was shot there.

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Messapic Walls Archaeological Park

The wonderful **Mura Messapiche** (Messapic City Walls) Archaeological Park of Manduria, which covers about 150,000 square metres, is surrounded by two circles of walls and it is one of the largest and important sites in Italy.

Outside the megalithic walls, with three circles of walls built to face the expansion of Taranto, there is the wonderful necropolis with more than 2,000 messapic tombs dating back to the 6th - 2nd century BC.

MARVEL AT
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SAVOUR FOOD AND WINE



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Fishing tourism

During the excursion a stop is made to enjoy a swim in the clear waters of the Cheradi Islands, an ideal area for fishing, and finally there is a moment dedicated to **cooking the fresh catch** and **tasting the flavors of the Taranto cuisine**.

Octopuses, squilla mantises, caramote prawns, sargos, congers, gilt head breams are hauled onboard as our fishermen do everyday and are cooked on the spot for your lunch on the fisher boat.

SAVOUR FOOD
AND WINE





Olive oil and wine tastings

The characteristic feature of Apulian landscape are vineyards and thousand-years-old olive groves.

Today these products are one of Puglia's world known outstanding features. Passengers can tour the **cantine (wineries)** and sample the best wine grape varieties, among which are **Negramaro, Primitivo, or Verdeca** (and many more).

In the frantoi (olive mills) the process involved in producing the oil will be explained and of course there will be an invitation to savour the produce, even with typical bread and cheese.

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100 Farmhouses and the Green Road

The ancient fortified farmhouses in the province of Taranto, the so called **masserie**, are being turned into hotels and restaurants, where courses of traditional Apulian cuisine are held for both international and national guests.

In a charming whitewashed setting, where stone walls preserve ancient history, guests can take part in experience based tours: local chefs are pleased to reveal the secrets of preparing **orecchiette** (traditional ear shaped pasta), **mozzarella** (a kind of soft cheese) and **Apulian bread** during select workshops.

SAVOUR FOOD
AND WINE



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DISCOVER TRADITIONS



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Taranto: The Procession of the Holy Mysteries

Taranto, whose traditions are held dear, has always been famous for its religious events. For centuries on every Friday the city has been participating in the **Holy Procession of the Mysteries**. Figures dressed in the typical dress of the “**perdone**”, white sash with a white hood and only two holes for the eyes, walk slowly along the funeral music, played by the band for the death of Christ.

For spectators it's a beautiful event, for the devotees it is the most sublime divine manifestation.

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The pottery of Grottaglie

Tucked away in Puglia, the heel of the boot, **Grottaglie** is a small gem and a new shore destination from Taranto. Guests will be charmed and artistically involved in this village with earthenware laden roofs and pottery workshops, as Grottaglie boasts an ancient tradition of **ceramic art**.

During the tour an expert artisan will guide visitors in the creative process of making a vase with a treadle wheel.

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The Itria valley

The Valley, an extensive karst depression, includes the beautiful towns of Alberobello, Locorotondo, Martina Franca, Ceglie Messapica, Cisternino and Fasano, the so called "borghi" that is characteristic small villages with preserved historic centre.

The Valley is dotted with thousands of trulli, small limestone dwellings with cone shaped roofs, held together without mortar.



DID YOU KNOW

The animated series for kids Trulli Tales takes place among the trulli. Its copyright was acquired by Disney which will broadcast the series in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

DISCOVER
TRADITIONS



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ENJOY ADVENTURE



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Dolphins in the Gulf of Taranto

Among the wide variety of shorex tours available, the most loved one among cruise passengers is the **dolphin watching boat tour**, which allows nature lovers to explore the sea and have a close encounter with the dolphins living in the waters of the gulf of Taranto, thanks to the guide of expert researchers from the **Jonian Dolphin**, a local association.

The Association was awarded by the **UNESCO** Clubs of Italy the "Landscape Factory" prize.

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Spartan Race

Taranto hosted in 2016 the famous “**Spartan Race**”, a competition inspired by the tough physical exercise that Spartans had to endure in order to train themselves for war.

The participants share the belief in discipline and most of all in mutual support, as many of them help each other getting up if they fall during the race, or if they have any difficulty.

This way sport lovers from all over the world find their homeland in Taranto, the **Daughter of Sparta**.

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Canoeing in the Mar Piccolo

Mar Piccolo (small Sea) is a natural basin with two different inlets, forming an "infinite" shape. The second inlet of Mar Piccolo includes the treasured natural heritage of the city of Taranto, the WWF Oasis of "Palude la Vela". Its preserved environment is home to many species of birds, among which flamingoes, grey herons the black winged stilts. Visitors may take a 2 km canoe tour to explore the Oasis.



DID YOU KNOW

Mar Piccolo is home to the biggest colony of seahorses in the Mediterranean, about 500.000, easy to spot even while just snorkeling.

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Grottaglie European City of Sport 2020

With the objective to educate its citizens and especially young people to the values of community, sharing and health, the town of Grottaglie crafted a program of activities and investments which led to its candidacy and winning of the title of **European City of Sport for year 2020**. Next year the town will be the location of both regional and national paralympic sports tournaments, and furthermore will start up the construction of new facilities, among which the Citadel for Paralympic sports and bike sharing spots in town. Grottaglie is already carrying out an intense activity of promotion of sports among its citizens regardless of age, sex, and physical ability, involving swimming, soccer, trekking, run, volley, and all the sports practiced by its 40 associations.

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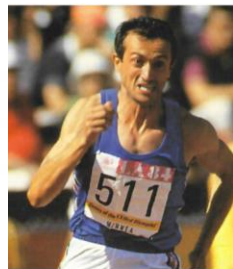
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TARANTO 2026
XX GIOCHI DEL MEDITERRANEO



Mediterranean Games 2026 in Taranto

In 2019 Taranto was officially declared the host city of the Mediterranean Games 2026.

The Mediterranean Games is the most important multi-sports event in the Mediterranean Basin after the Olympic Games. They are held every four years since 1951 among the countries bordering the Mediterranean in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Taranto will be the centre of the world for athletes from three different continents. The city will inspire the Olympic principles of discipline, solidarity, unity across cultures that originated in ancient Greece and were shared by legendary athletes from Taranto.

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Trekking in the gravine of the Jonian area

The heart of Puglia is made up of rocky skylines sketched onto the horizon. Guests can venture along a trail through the **gravine** (ravines) and into the countryside, and let the Murgia plateau amaze them as sunlight fills the landscape.

At just 20 km from Taranto over an area of about 28.000 hectares lies the **National Park of the Gravine**, established in 2005, (in the territories of Laterza, Castellaneta, Mottola, Massafra, Palagiano, Grottaglie, Martina Franca, etc.).

Gravine are the ideal environment for **climbers**, but also for anyone who enjoys a good **trek**.

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ADVENTURE





Ziplining and Suspension Bridge

About a hour's drive from Taranto, among the hills in the nearby Basilicata Region, adventure lovers will find their heaven with the "**Angel's flight**" zip-line and the "**Moon Bridge**".

The **ANGEL'S FLIGHT** is a zip-line suspended between the tops of two small towns, Castelmezzano and Pietrapertosa. Tied in total safety with a harness, attached to the steel cable, you will live the thrill of flying for a few minutes above the beautiful landscape of the Lucanian Dolomites about 1000 metres above the ground at a speed of 100 km/h.

The **MOON BRIDGE** is an exciting 300 meters walk on a suspension bridge at the height of 120 meters above the ground near the picturesque ruins of a Middle Ages Castle.

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RELAX ON THE BEACH



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The Salento coastline

Puglia boasts a 540 miles (860 km) long sun-kissed coastline with **golden beaches** and **crystal clear waters**.

Many beaches along the Jonian coast near Taranto carry the Blue Flag and “**Sails**” certification, awarded by Legambiente and the Touring Club of Italy to the country’s most gorgeous beaches.

Guests can find fully equipped beaches, offering every kind of service. The beaches along the Jonian coast are connected by a series of sand **dunes** which are an area of environmental importance as they allow the flourishing of various species of plants, known as the “**Mediterranean bush**”.

RELAX ON THE
BEACH

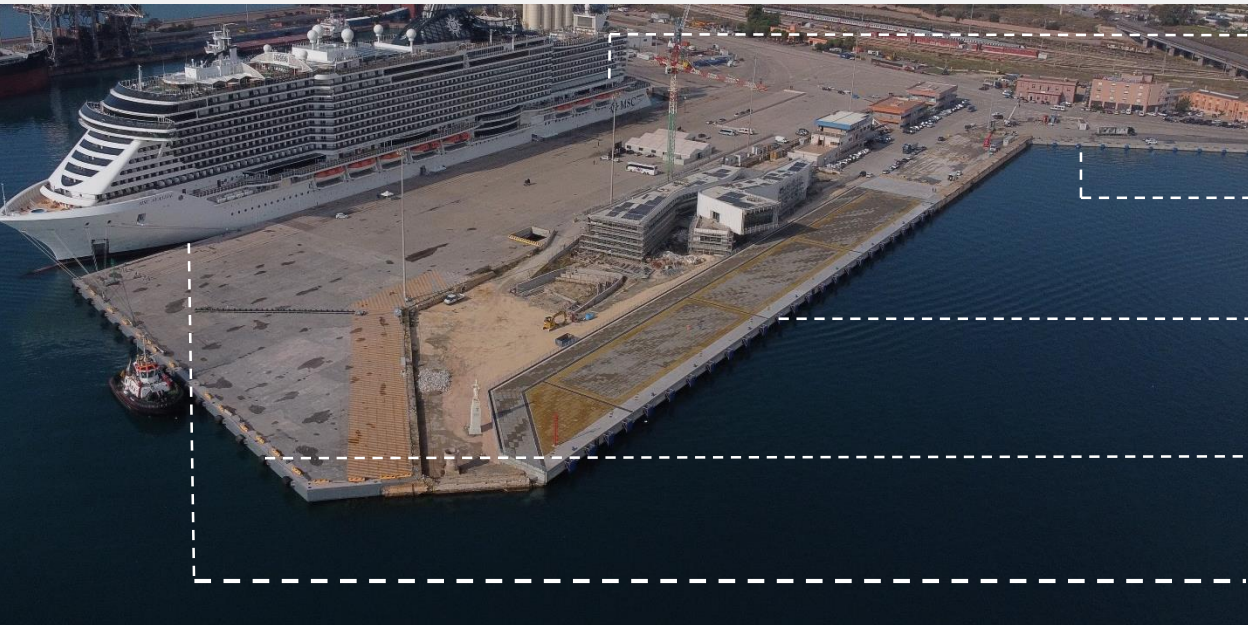


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Quay 2:

Length (m): 290
Draught: 12,5
Operational Space (m²): 9,000
Availability: Currently available

Quay 1:

Length (m): 230
Draught: 8,5
Operational Space (m²): 1,800
Availability: Currently available

Pier 1 - East Side

Length (m): 360
Draught: 9,5
Operational Space (m²): 1,600
Availability: Currently available

Pier 1 - Head:

Length (m): 130 m
Draught: 8
Operational space (m²): 8.500 mq
Availability: currently available

Pier 1 - West Side:

Length (m): 339
Draught: 12,5
Operational Space (m²): 13,000
Availability: Currently available

BERTHING AND CONNECTIONS



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Details of the
adjusted Pier 1 – East
Side

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Falanto Port Service Center

The Port Network Authority's objective is to provide Taranto with a new **sea-culture**, encouraging the union of the port, the city and the environment into a single experience.

The Port Network Authority has planned the construction of a Multipurpose Service Center on the Molo S. Cataldo as well as the renovation of the pier's East side berthing quay.

The works foresee the realization of a multipurpose building dedicated to the following activities:

Promotion of maritime culture; multi purpose auditorium, meeting rooms, areas for exhibitions and educational activities; Passenger services; "meet and greet" services (information point, lounge area, bar, restrooms).

Works will be completed by the spring of 2022.

BERTHING AND
CONNECTIONS



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Port of Taranto





New Waterfront

The requalification of S. Cataldo Pier as waterfront is carried out with the aim to reintegrate the city of Taranto with the port.

The structure between the seaside and the buildings is a medium of passage between two systems.

The path ends at the port gateway tower, which represents a landmark in the urban landscape.

The various technological possibilities allow this solution to be versatile.

**BERTHING AND
CONNECTIONS**



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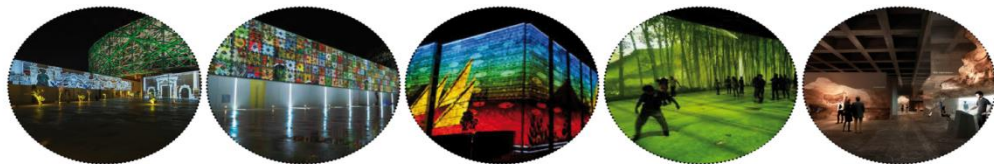
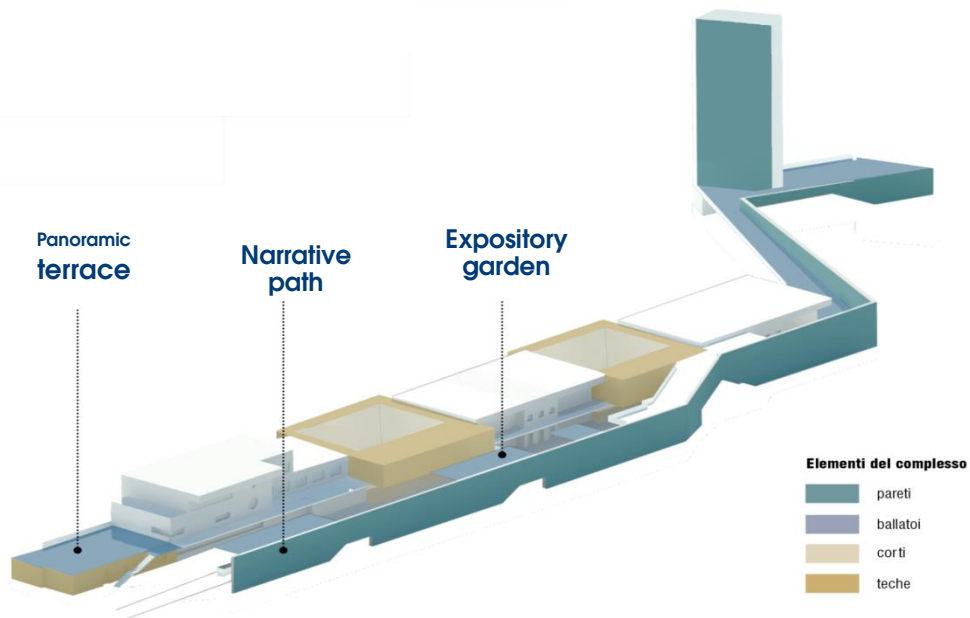
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New Waterfront

The exhibition and narrative path will involve a few areas of the Falanto Port Service Center, the uncovered areas of the existing buildings, the paths at different levels and the wall in the Observatory Tower.

The exhibition path starts in the Falanto, where dedicated areas will narrate the **sea culture** and the **history of the city** as well as its **relationship with the port and the Mediterranean Sea**.

The narrative path continues in the area between buildings interpreted as «rooms» of an open exhibition, integrated with the surrounding environment.





The port competitiveness increased thanks to the restoration of cruise related berthing points.

Works at the **head of Pier 1 (molo san Cataldo)** were completed in 2020. [News](#)

Renovation works of **Quay 1** were completed by the end of June 2020.



The renovation of **Pier 1 East Side (see pictures)** was completed in 2021, enabling cruise ships to berth starting next year. This berthing point offers a spectacular view to cruisers as it faces the Old Town.

BERTHING AND CONNECTIONS



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Interreg
Greece-Italy
Swan
European Regional Development Fund



"SWAN"

*Enhancing regional
transportation through
Sustainable Water
Aerodrome Network*



Swan Project

Enhancing regional transportation through Sustainable Water Aerodrome Network.

Swan project is part of the project portfolio of the Port of Taranto, funded by the Interreg V-A Greece-Italy 2014-2020 Program. It aims to develop seaplane infrastructure within Ports and coastal areas, supporting multimodal integration & interconnection of transport modes in the Cross Border territory.

The project aims to increase in the number of maritime transport passengers in the port of Taranto via the set up of a water aerodrome and the related mini terminal that will function as a mini-hub also for local transport needs.

**BERTHING AND
CONNECTIONS**



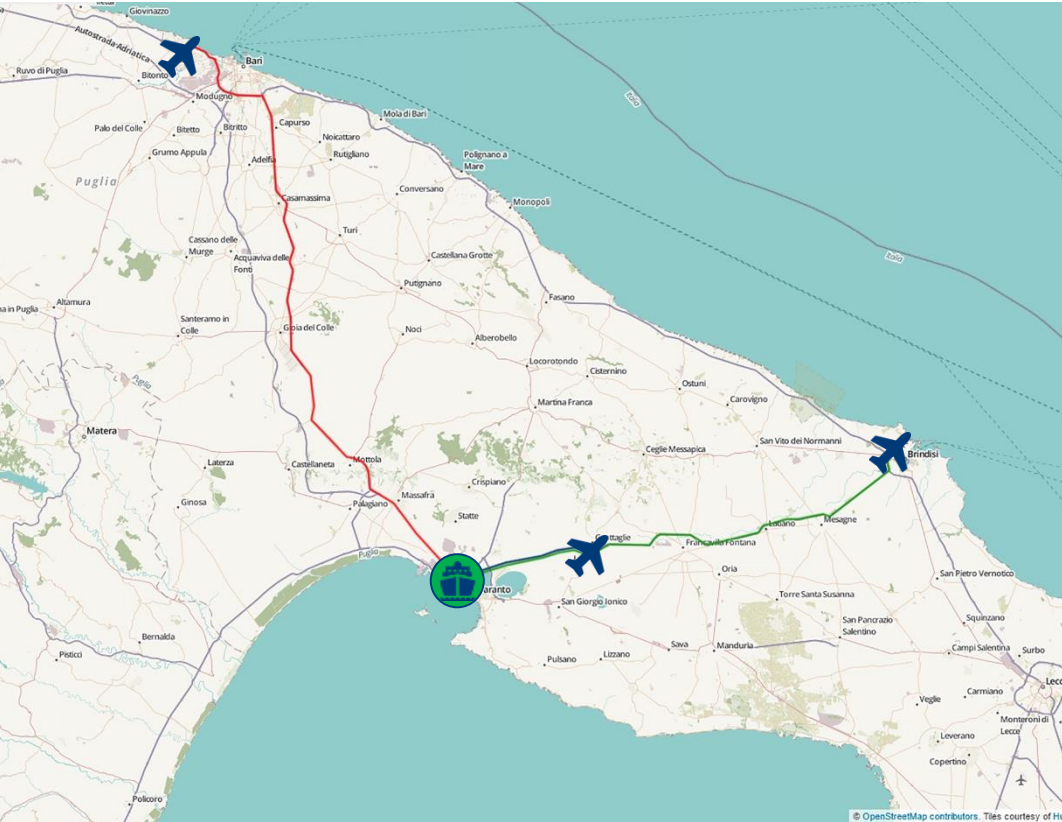
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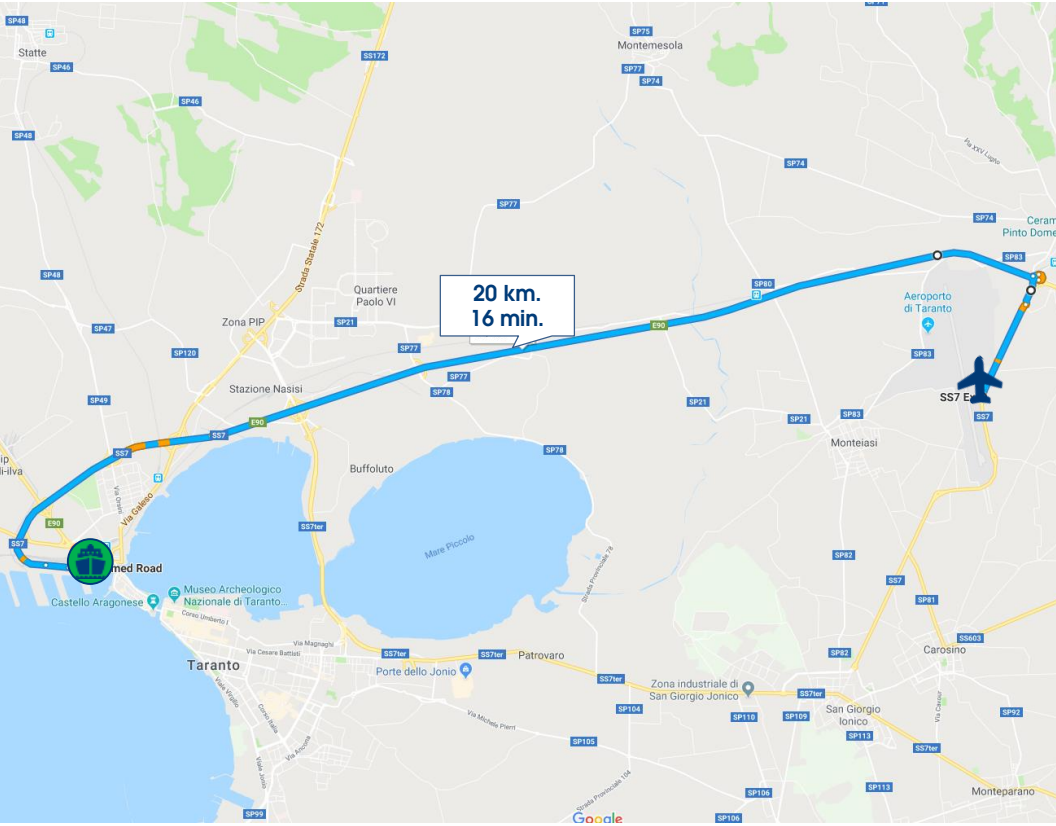
The airports of **Bari** and **Brindisi** are located at 90 km and 75 km respectively from the Port of Taranto, providing daily flights to and from key centres in Italy and Europe.

The **Apulia airport network** represents then, for location and infrastructures, one of the most interesting European and Italian realities. Its favorable position in the middle of a strategic area like the Mediterranean, makes it an essential asset inside continental transport networks.

- Taranto - Grottaglie
- Taranto - Brindisi
- Taranto - Bari

BERTHING AND CONNECTIONS





The airport of **Grottaglie**, where the aircraft manufacturing company **LEONARDO** - on behalf of Boeing - operates, is about 20 km from Taranto and is connected to the seaport by a road that runs directly from the port's Northern Gate.

Grottaglie has a 3.2 km runway, thus offering scope for an additional mode of transport for **passengers** and goods handled at the Port of Taranto.

The airport is ready for turn-around and **charter flights**, thus enabling Taranto to become a "home port" for **embarking** and **disembarking** cruise passengers.

BERTHING AND
CONNECTIONS



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The airport of **Grottaglie**, where the aircraft manufacturing company LEONARDO - on behalf of Boeing - operates, is about 20 km from Taranto and is connected to the seaport by a road that runs directly from the port's Northern Gate.

Grottaglie has a 3.2 km runway, thus offering scope for an additional mode of transport for **passengers** and goods handled at the Port of Taranto.

The airport is ready for turn-around and **charter flights**, thus enabling Taranto to become a "home port" for **embarking** and **disembarking cruise passengers**.

BERTHING AND
CONNECTIONS





The PNAIS joined the **AIVP** network of port cities in 2020 to boost its commitment to regenerate the port-city relationship thanks to the Association's international expertise in this field.

The PNAIS launched in 2020 a series of initiatives aiming to spread port culture and work on promotion of Taranto's link to the sea and maritime activities:

- **Taranto Port Days 2020**, the three days event focusing on port culture
- The new port museum **Open Port**, focusing on the engagement of the local community to build a strategic vision founded on innovation, sustainability and inclusion.

[News - Port of Taranto joins AIVP network](#)

[News - Open Port Exhibition Center](#)

The joint effort of PNAIS and the Municipality opened up new possibilities to promote Taranto as port-city and strengthen the relationship between the city and the sea, making it possible for Taranto to host the Italy Grand Prix of the **SAIL GP**, the international sailing competition that took place on June 5-6 2021.

PORT AND CITY RELATIONSHIP





TARANTO CRUISE PORT

Global Ports Holding Plc (“GPH”), the world’s largest cruise port operator, signed a 20-year concession agreement to manage the cruise passenger terminal of the Port of Taranto in April 2021.

Taranto Cruise Port, is thus the latest addition to the GPH global network, which promotes Taranto as “**a destination beyond your imagination**”.



TCP set up a tensile structure on Pier 1 to provide services for embarking/disembarking passengers.

The TCP will move to the Falanto Port Service Center when the structure will be completed by spring 2022.



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TARANTO CRUISE PORT

The **Taranto Cruise Port** was set up in record time after the signing of the concession, and started its activities on May 5th with the maiden call of the smart-ship **MSC Seaside**.

The inaugural call marked the relaunch of cruise traffic in the Mediterranean and also the first time ever that **home port** operations were performed in the port of Taranto.

The safety of passengers was ensured thanks to the employment of the health and safety protocol “**MSC safe bubble**”.

Meet and greet activities, excursions and embarking/disembarking operations were carried out efficiently thanks to the expertise of Global Ports Holding, and the partnership with local institutions.



CRUISE TRAFFIC in 2021 and 2022 FORECAST



28 CRUISE CALLS
(YEAR 2021)

More than

80.000 PASSENGERS
(reduced capacity)

51 CRUISE CALLS
(YEAR 2022)

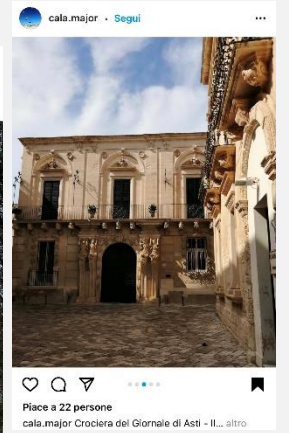
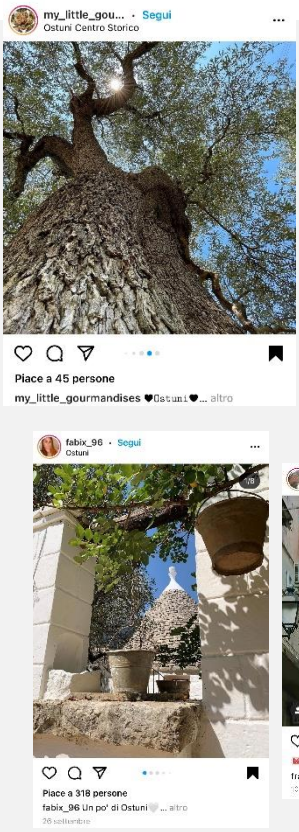
132.964 PASSENGERS
(full capacity)



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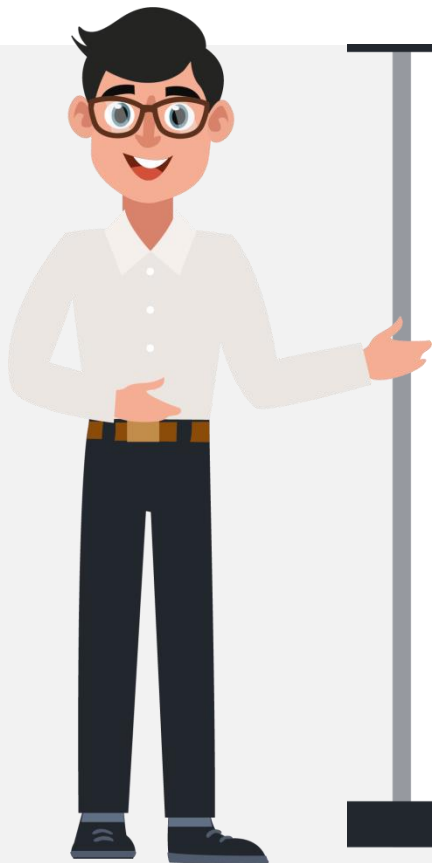


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Taranto is a **BRAND NEW** destination port in the Mediterranean ready to welcome upscale cruisers who are looking for a **UNIQUE** experience

Our cruise port features:

- **Efficient passenger services provided by Taranto Cruise Port, part of the international network of Global Ports Holding**
- **Tensile structure** on the quay
- Smooth **rail and road connections** to the national railroad network
- Wide variety of **shore excursions** within short reach
- Taranto is the perfect port of call for excursions to **Matera**, Europe's cultural Capital for 2019 and UNESCO World Heritage site
- Possibility to establish **fly&cruise** traffic thanks to the connection with the nearby airport of Grottaglie (20 km)
- The airport of Grottaglie is fully equipped and ready to operate **charter flights** to/from all over the world. Its runway is one of the longest of the South of Italy
- New **Falanto Port Service Center** currently under construction. The Center will host facilities such as cruise terminal, restaurants and rooms dedicated to dissemination of port culture, education and leisure
- Competitive and efficient **nautical services**

WHAT WE OFFER



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Cruise lines interested in calling at Taranto

Private players who intend to run cruise as well as flight business organizing charter flights from/to all over the world, using the nearby airport of Grottaglie. Thus the port of Taranto could become suitable home port for fly&cruise traffic



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