

# MATERA 2019

## European Capital of Culture

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*Tourist guide*





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ph. Vittoria Santarsiero



## MATERA. EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2019

Matera is a natural scenario for reconstructing the way of life of human beings from the stone age to the present day, as evidenced by the Sassi, the old districts dug into the tufaceous rock, the entrenched villages and the rock-hewn churches of Murgia, the archaeological finds of the Ridola Museum and the architecture of the modern part of the city. It's fascinating observing Matera from a distance because it's perched on the rock, but it's even more evocative when you're inside the city discovering the urban fabric which includes 80 churches, of which over

sixty are rock-hewn churches. You can see thousands of troglodytic dwellings carved into the rock, the countless “neighbourhoods” and the ingenious water collection systems such as the “roof” and “bell shaped” water tanks, the wells, the palombari and the neviere. The sensation it gives you is that of being in a manger, living in another age, so much so that some of the great masters of the cinema, from Pier Paolo Pasolini to Mel Gibson, decided to locate their films in this evocative setting.



## THE SASSI DISTRICTS

Sassi of Matera is the first location in the world to be declared a “**cultural landscape**” and in 1993 it was inserted into the **UNESCO World Heritage list**. It can be compared to a “gigantic sculpture” formed by an intricate alternation of backstreets, stairways, caverns and distinguished buildings, archways, catwalks, back gardens and large terraces, dug out from the rocky promontory behind the Gravina, a deep canyon which has a torrent of the same name crossing through it. The Civita district, which is the oldest nucleus of dwellings in the highest part of the promontory, dominates and di-

vides the other two districts, Sasso Barisano and Sasso Caveoso. Civita is characterized by its Cathedral, which built on its acropolis from the remains of the Metellana, Quadra and Capone towers that surrounded it and the beautiful noble buildings. Sasso Barisano stretches to the north west of Civita, in the valley overlooked. Sasso Caveoso, which is to the south of Civita, is the most dug in district, even though it has buildings of a considerable height; this is evidenced by the rock-hewn churches, the cavern style houses and the numerous cellars.



ph. Giulio Parente



## THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral (1230-1270), which dominates the two Sassi from high up, has a marvelous Roman and Puglia architectural style and it rises from the old S. Eustachio church. The rosette, which symbolizes a wheel of fortune, stands out on its main face façade, while the 53 metre, quadrangular shaped bell-tower has always been the main social and religious reference point of the Sassi and the entire community of Matera. Inside the Cathedral you will find the following: the Madonna della

Bruna (XII century.) There are other churches which should not be missed: Church of S. Domenico (XIII century), Church of S. Giovanni Battista that is also called Church of S. Maria La Nova (XIII century), Church Materdomini (XVII century), Church of San Francesco da Paola (XVIII century), Church of S. Lucia e S. Agata (XVIII century), Church of S. Francesco d'Assisi (XVIII century), Church of Purgatorio (XVIII century), and Church of Santa Chiara (XVII century).



## THE MUSEUM

The city's museums range from Domenico Ridola National Archaeological Museum, to National and Modern Medieval Art Museum to the small ethnographical museums such as "Case grotta" (cavern houses) and Peasant Civilization Laboratory Museum, Museum of Torture, and finally MUSMA, the recently fur-

nished Museum of Contemporary Sculptures. Madonna delle Virtù and San Nicola dei Greci rock-hewn complex is a large museum space that hosts important exhibitions of contemporary sculptures every year. One of the exhibition spaces is dedicated to the hypogeum of San Francesco's Square.







ph. Vittoria Santarsiero

Since the Stone Age the numerous natural cavities of the Matera Agro have been the ideal place for human settlements. In the late middle ages the monastic communities which reached Matera from the east and west, found the troglodyte dwellings suitable environments for developing churches, monasteries and nunneries. In Sasso Caveoso there are examples of this rock-hewn civilisation: Chiesa di Santa Maria de Armenis, a Benedictine monastery starting from the XI century; Convicinio di S. Antonio which is made up of four rock-hewn churches; Santa Lucia alle Malve, which was founded around the year one thousand by the female Benedictine community; Ma-

donna de Idris and San Giovanni in Monterrone which form a single complex inside a rocky mass; Santa Barbara has a series of frescos which date back to the XIII and XIV centuries. 14 kilometres from Matera there is the exceptionally beautiful the Original Sin Crypt, which is also referred to as the “Sistine Chapel” of rock-hewn wall painting, with its splendid frescos showing episodes from Genesis. The itinerary then continues in the Murgia Park with rock-hewn churches: Madonna delle Croci, San Nicola all’Ofra, Madonna degli Angeli, Cripta di S.Eustachio, Cristo La Selva, Madonna di Monteverde, Madonna del Giglio, Santa Lucia alla Gravina, Grotta del Sole.









## OFFICIAL EVENTS OF MATERA 2019

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### **MAT-AIR 2019/2**

sat 16 November 2019

from h 10:00 to h 18:00

Palazzo del Casale

Via del Casale, 63 Matera (MT)

*Free - while seats last*

### **MATERA ALBERGA**

*Art Thinking: The relationship between living Art and the Art of living*

sat 23 november 2019

from h 10:00 to h 13:00

Hotel del Campo

Via Lucrezio, 1 Matera (MT)

*Included in the Matera 2019 Passport*

### **GALILEO'S JOURNEY**

*Multimedia work for ensemble performance and electronica*

sat 23 november 2019

sun 24 november 2019 h 20:00

Auditorium Gervasio

Piazza del Sedile, Matera (MT)

*Included in the Matera 2019 Passport*

### **MAMMAMIAAA**

*U Paràt (The Wall)*

*Mammamiaa's Wall*

from sun 31 march 2019

to tue 31 december 2019

Belvedere Luigi Guerricchio

Piazza V. Veneto, Matera (MT)

*Free - while seats last*

### **I CAMMINI**

*FAMILY NATIVITY SCENES, YESTERDAY AND TODAY*

*The Road of Generations*

sat 30 november 2019

alle h 17:00

-Chiesa di Maria Madre della Chiesa

Via dei Dauni, 20 Matera (MT)

-Chiesa di Sant'Antonio

Via Carlo Levi, 2 Matera (MT)

-Chiesa di San Giacomo

Via B. Croce, 12 Matera (MT)

*Free - while seats last*

### **BLIND SENSORIUM**

*The paradox of the Anthropocene - A display by Armin Linke in collaboration with Giulia Bruno and Giuseppe Ielasi*

from fri 06 september 2019

to mon 06 january 2020

from h 09:00 to h 20:00

Museo Archeologico Nazionale Domenico Ridola

Via D. Ridola, 24 Matera (MT)

Ex scuola media A. Volta

Via Lucana, 157 Matera (MT)

*Included in the Matera 2019 Passport*

### **MATERA ALBERGA**

*Art Walking, 'Contemporary neighbours'*

sun 24 november 2019

from h 10:00 to h 13:00

Poste Italiane

Viale F. Saverio Nitti, 8 Matera (MT)

*Included in the Matera 2019 Passport*

## LA POETICA DEI NUMERI

### PRIMI. *Numbers*

*Works by Ugo Nespolo*

from mon 24 june 2019

to sat 30 november 2019

from h 09:00 to h 13:00

from h 16:00 to h 20:00

Palazzo Acito

Recinto II Fiorentini, Matera (MT)

*Included in the Matera 2019 Passport*

## LA POETICA DEI NUMERI

### PRIMI. *Elements of transcendental calculation.*

*Works by Tobia Ravà*

from mon 24 june 2019

to sat 30 november 2019

from h 09:00 to h 13:00

from h 16:00 to h 20:00

Palazzo Acito

Recinto II Fiorentini, Matera (MT)

*Included in the Matera 2019 Passport*

## ASK THE TREES FOR IT

### WOODEN SCULPTURES BY GIOACCHINO D'ELLA

from mon 13 may 2019

to wed 01 january 2020

from h 10:00 to h 23:00

Rione San Biagio, 54

San Pietro Barisano hotel ristorante,

Matera (MT)

*Free*

### NEGA. *In search of beauty*

from mon 01 april 2019

to thu 19 december 2019

from h 09:00 to h 13:00

from h 16:30 to h 20:00

Galleria Cine Sud

Via Antonio Passarelli, 29/31 75100

Matera (MT)

*Free*

*all the events on*

<https://www.materaevents.it/>



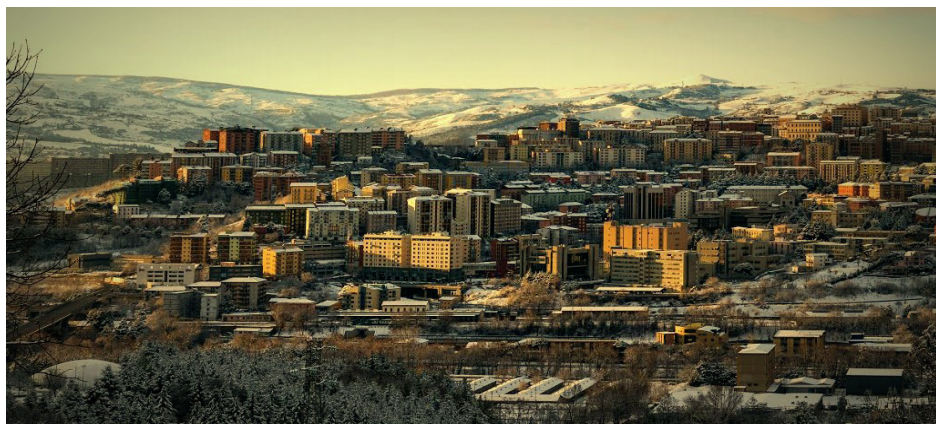




## POTENZA

Potenza is the dominating feature of the Basento valley. At 800 meters above sea level, Potenza is the highest Capital in Italy. Its urban medieval spine sits austere and elegant above the town. Entering Potenza through the Musmeci Bridge it is an uphill climb to the city, with the longest steps in Europe. Within the old city centre lies the true story of the town dating back to before the romans. The squares, the cathedral, the numerous churches, the heritage sites, libraries, the Guevara tower, the remains of a Roman villa and the archaeological museums tell of its heritage and culture through the centuries. Today the old Potenza is the administrative centre of the region with investment into cultural tourism being a high priority, with large national and international interest in its art and urban countryside.

Almost entirely pedestrian, the habitable centre is accessible through six door (that of St. Luca, St. Gerard, St. John, Portasalza, Portamendola and that of Trinity) of which the first four can actually be visited walking along via Pretoria. The latter is the centre of the city life, with its many shops, bar and cafes. You can walk through the old alleys, through long staircases, and numerous religious buildings. Heading west, one reaches Piazza Mario Pagano, a wonderful example of an Italian square, framed by the Government Palace and an 800 years old Theatre. Further ahead one comes across the small square of Duca della Verdura, and after a small climb one arrives at Piazza Matteotti. Passing in front of some of the most important historic palaces of the city, you eventually arrive at the Cathedral.







## POLLINO PARK



The Pollino National Park is the highest and largest group of mountains in the Southern Apennines. Wild and unspoiled, it offers an incredible range of environments and landscapes of extreme charm and extraordinary beauty. It is divided into five main valleys: the Mercure Valley, the Frido Valley, the Sarmen-to Valley, the Serrapotamo Valley and the Sinni Valley. Each valley has its own particular environmental, scenic and almost human character-

istics; over the course of one day, travelling from one valley to the next, you can experience some truly unforgettable moments, going from low, open stony watercourses, visited by crested porcupines and badgers, to imposing mountains covered with the last snowfalls of spring. The hillsides are dominated by a pastoral farming landscape, with fields, orchards and vineyards, dotted with enormous oak trees and enlivened by characteristic, welcoming villages.



