

2025

CHECK LIST

Cultural Heritage Map of Molise

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME IN ITALY'S SMALLEST REGION

WELCOME TO THE HEART OF ANCIENT ITALY

MOLISE IS A HIDDEN TREASURY OF HISTORY, WHERE EVERY STONE TELLS A STORY. FROM PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENTS AND SAMNITE WARRIORS TO ROMAN RUINS AND MAJESTIC MEDIEVAL FORTRESSES, THIS MAP IS YOUR KEY TO UNLOCKING A LANDSCAPE STEEPED IN TIMELESS CHARM.

REGIONAL MAP & KEY HERITAGE SITES

(INSERT A STYLIZED, PRINTABLE MAP OF MOLISE HERE, WITH ICONS CATEGORIZING THE SITES BELOW)

ICONS LEGEND:

- 🏛️ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
- 🏰 MEDIEVAL CASTLE & VILLAGE
- ⛪ RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE
- 🏛️ MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

🏛️ ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES

1. SAEPINUM (ALTILIA)

- WHY VISIT? DON'T MISS THE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-PRESERVED RUINS OF THIS ROMAN MARKET TOWN. UNLIKE POMPEII, YOU'LL LIKELY HAVE ITS DECUMANUS (MAIN STREET), THEATER, AND BASILICA ALL TO YOURSELF. IT'S A BREATHTAKING GLIMPSE INTO DAILY ROMAN LIFE.
- MAP MARKER: CENTRAL MOLISE.

2. PIETRABBONDANTE

- WHY VISIT? THE MOST IMPORTANT SAMNITE SITE IN ITALY. THIS WAS THE SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL HEART OF THE FIERCE SAMNITE TRIBES WHO FOUGHT THE ROMANS. THE STUNNING TEATRO-TEMPIO (THEATRE-TEMPLE) COMPLEX, SET AGAINST A MOUNTAINOUS BACKDROP, IS AWE-INSPIRING.
- MAP MARKER: INLAND, NORTHERN MOLISE.

3. LARINO

- WHY VISIT? EXPLORE A ROMAN AMPHITHEATER AND INTRICATE MOSAIC FLOORS ("THE MOSAICS OF THE AFRICAN HUNT") FROM A ROMAN VILLA. THE TOWN ITSELF IS A BEAUTIFUL OVERLAY OF ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY.
- MAP MARKER: SOUTHERN MOLISE.

🏰 MEDIEVAL CASTLES & HILLTOP VILLAGES

1. CAMPOBASSO: MONFORTE CASTLE

- WHY VISIT? THE ICONIC SYMBOL OF THE REGION'S CAPITAL, OFFERING PANORAMIC VIEWS FROM ITS HILLTOP PERCH. A PERFECT STARTING POINT FOR YOUR CULTURAL JOURNEY.
- MAP MARKER: CENTRAL MOLISE.

2. AGNONE

- WHY VISIT? A STUNNING MEDIEVAL HILLTOP VILLAGE WORLD-FAMOUS FOR THE PONTIFICAL FOUNDRY OF MARINELLI, WHERE BELLS HAVE BEEN CAST FOR A THOUSAND YEARS. ITS ANCIENT STREETS ARE A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME.
- MAP MARKER: NORTHERN MOLISE.

3. TERMOLI: SVEVO CASTLE & BORGO ANTICO

- WHY VISIT? THIS PICTURESQUE SEASIDE CASTLE GUARDS A BEAUTIFULLY PRESERVED OLD QUARTER (BORGO) OF WHITEWASHED STREETS AND ARCHES, RIGHT ON THE ADRIATIC SEA.
- MAP MARKER: COASTAL MOLISE.

4. BOJANO

- WHY VISIT? AS THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF THE SAMNITE PENTRI TRIBE, IT'S LAYERED WITH HISTORY. EXPLORE THE HISTORIC CENTER AND THE RUINS OF LONGANO CASTLE IN THE SURROUNDING HILLS.
- MAP MARKER: CENTRAL MOLISE.



[GUSTO ITALIANO JOURNEY](#)

🏰 RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE & SANCTUARIES

• SANCTUARY OF THE ADDOLORATA (CASTELPETROSO)

- WHY VISIT? A STUNNINGLY MODERN NEO-GOTHIC BASILICA BUILT INTO A MOUNTAIN GROTTO. IT IS AN IMPORTANT MARIAN PILGRIMAGE SITE WITH A POWERFUL ATMOSPHERE.
- MAP MARKER: INLAND, CENTRAL MOLISE.

• ABBEY OF SAN VINCENZO AL VOLTURNO

- WHY VISIT? ONCE ONE OF THE GREATEST BENEDICTINE CENTERS IN EUROPE, THESE ABBEY RUINS WHISPER TALES OF MEDIEVAL MONKS, CAROLINGIAN EMPERORS, AND SARACEN RAIDS.
- MAP MARKER: INLAND, SOUTH-WESTERN MOLISE.

• CATHEDRAL OF SAN BASSO (TERMOLI)

- WHY VISIT? A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF PUGLIESE-ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE LOCATED IN THE OLD BORGO, WITH A STRIKING CRYPT AND FACADE.
- MAP MARKER: COASTAL MOLISE.

🏛️ MUST-VISIT MUSEUMS

• NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PIETRABBONDANTE

- FOCUS: SAMNITE HISTORY AND ARTIFACTS FROM THE NEARBY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE.
- LOCATION: PIETRABBONDANTE.

• MUSEUM OF THE SAMNIUM (CAMPOBASSO)

- FOCUS: A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION TRACING THE HISTORY OF THE REGION FROM PREHISTORY TO THE ROMAN ERA.
- LOCATION: CAMPOBASSO.

• MARINELLI PONTIFICAL BELL FOUNDRY (AGNONE)

- FOCUS: A LIVING MUSEUM OF A CENTURIES-OLD CRAFT. SEE HOW BELLS ARE MADE FOR THE VATICAN AND CHURCHES WORLDWIDE.
- LOCATION: AGNONE.

🚗 SUGGESTED CULTURAL ROUTES

• THE SAMNITE HEARTLAND (2 DAYS):

- DAY 1: PIETRABBONDANTE (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE & MUSEUM) → AGNONE (BELL FOUNDRY & MEDIEVAL VILLAGE).
- DAY 2: BOJANO (ANCIENT CAPITAL) → CAMPOBASSO (MONFORTE CASTLE & SAMNIUM MUSEUM).

• FROM ROME TO THE SEA (2 DAYS):

- DAY 1: ABBEY OF SAN VINCENZO AL VOLTURNO → ISERNIA (ANCIENT CITY).
- DAY 2: SAEPINUM (ROMAN RUINS) → LARINO (ROMAN AMPHITHEATER & MOSAICS) → TERMOLI (CASTLE & BORGO).

• THE PATH OF FAITH (1 DAY):

- SANCTUARY OF THE ADDOLORATA (CASTELPETROSO) → CATHEDRAL OF TERMOLI.

📌 TRAVELER'S NOTES

- **PLANNING:** MANY SMALLER SITES HAVE LIMITED OPENING HOURS. CHECK LOCALLY OR WITH REGIONAL TOURISM WEBSITES IN ADVANCE.
- **TRANSPORT:** A CAR IS ESSENTIAL TO EXPLORE THESE SITES FREELY AND DISCOVER THE HIDDEN GEMS IN BETWEEN.
- **COMBINE WITH CUISINE:** PAIR YOUR CULTURAL VISITS WITH LOCAL FOOD. AFTER SAEPINUM, TRY CHEESE IN BOJANO. AFTER PIETRABBONDANTE, ENJOY A HEARTY MEAL IN AGNONE.

FINAL THOUGHT: IN MOLISE, HISTORY IS NOT CONFINED TO MUSEUMS; IT'S WOVEN INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF THE LAND. USE THIS MAP NOT JUST AS A GUIDE TO PLACES, BUT AS AN INVITATION TO WANDER, WONDER, AND CONNECT WITH THE ENDURING SPIRIT OF ITALY.

HAPPY EXPLORING!

