



**PEACE, GOOD AIR AND THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE REMIND
YOU OF A PIECE OF PARADISE**

MARATEA: **THE LADY OF THE SEA**

Surrounded by mountains rich in attractive woods, since the 1960s it has been the destination of tourists looking for places of unique natural beauties that, thanks to the geological configuration of the territory have maintained their unaltered charm

MARATEA: A PLACE OF CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE LAND

Called the "Lady of the Sea", Maratea can boast a stunning and exceptionally varied landscape, thanks to its special position on the Tyrrhenian coast between the Campania and Calabria regions. The village, set at the foot of mount San Biagio, overlooks the natural scenery of Policastro Gulf characterized by wonderful beaches. Maratea is provided with such contrasts in the nature of its territory as to be unique of its kind. The wild character of the place can be seen along the 32km-long coast, where charming sheer cliffs, bays surrounded by pine trees, small beaches set in the rocks, the crystal-clear water sea and the fragrance of vegetation come together to excite the visitors' astoni-

shment. It is this contrast between the sea and the land that creates a continuous alternation of surprises. Maratea has a varied climate, as well as the whole region of Basilicata, where you can go swimming from spring to autumn and skiing on the snow in winter.

MARATEA AND ITS HISTORY

Nature forms the attractive surroundings to a land rich in history and culture you can become acquainted with by spending some time in Maratea.

Probably of Greek origins - it is said that in the 8th century B.C. a group of Greek colonists settled on the slopes of Mount San Biagio – its origin seems to have come from the ancient Roman village Blanda Julia, a Christian center which vanished in the 8th century A.D.

After the revolution, over time Maratea was ruled by the Normans, the Angevins and Spanish. Various are the archaeological findings, such as a range of earthenware tubs, suitable for fish maceration in the preparation of the "garum" (fish sauce loved by the Romans), and also some rearing tanks. The findings can be seen in the provisional Municipal Museum. Seven towers built in the 16th century, now restored, to control the sea overrun by the pirates, represent other historic evidences.

MARATEA TODAY

Maratea is also called "the town of 44 churches", all painted with frescoes of 1300 and 1500: among the best known ones there are the Church of Santa Maria della Neve, the Church of San Vito, the Church of the Rosary and the Basilica di San Biagio situated on the mount with the same name, where rises the Christ Redeemer statue by Bruno Innocenti. Very attractive is the characteristic medieval hamlet of Maratea, where you can pleasantly walk along the narrow streets, looking for souvenirs and typical products (la Farmacia dei Sani), or enjoy summer international cultural celebrations such as Marajazz, Marateatro, Maratea Musica Festival and other folkloristic events.

HOLIDAYS IN MARATEA

Immersed in such a varied landscape, Maratea can boast a crystal-clear sea, dotted along the coast with a myriad of small beaches (Porticello, Cersuta), caves (The Dragon Cave), tiny bays, promontories and small islands, all surrounded by uncontaminated nature. The rocky seabed is so deep even within few meters from the coast as to be the ideal place for diving-lovers. There is a well-equipped tourist harbour suitable for mooring all kinds of boats. Peace, good air and beautiful nature remind you of a piece of Paradise, that seems to have been there from time immemorial.

Accommodation facilities welcome lots of Italian and foreign tourists every year; tours by boat are often organized and diving lovers can enjoy the enchanting submarine world.

CUISINE

To complete the wonderful panorama, there is the cuisine rich in the flavours of the typical products such as "cacio-cavallo podalico", caprini and pecorini" and the various recipes, accompanied by the wines of Aglianico production, dark red with a soft taste. All this and more about the excellence of the traditional cuisine of Lucania and the creativity of its cooks can be enjoyed in the unforgettable restaurants spread around the town.

GETTING TO MARATEA

By car: Motorway A3 Salerno-Reggio Calabria exit Lagonegro North, then Superstrada del Noce

By train: Napoli-Reggio Calabria railway line

By air: Nearby airports: Roma, Lamezia Terme, Napoli

By ship: Maratea Harbour