

Welcome



“ Snooping inside the Mediterranean vegetation... ”

Riviera di Ulisse Regional Park Authority

Protected areas management

The Riviera di Ulisse Regional Park Authority - established by the Regional Law n. 2, 6 February 2003, rule 37, comma 1 - is responsible for managing the areas and activities within: the urban regional Park of Monte Orlando - established by the Regional Law n. 47/86; the regional sub-urban Park of Gianola and Monte Scauri - established by the Regional Law n. 15/87; the Natural Monument of the Promontorio Villa di Tiberio and Costa Torre Capovento - Punta Cetarola - established by the Regional Council Presidential Decree n.503/2002.

The protected area runs along the south coast of Lazio and as well as offering beautiful views during all seasons, has unique environmental characteristics; promontories, cliffs, caves and seafloors teeming with life and a Mediterranean vegetation that includes rare species and endemisms*. All three protected areas also include many historical and archaeological sites.

The Park Authority is responsible for a terrestrial area of 434 hectares and a marine area of 101 hectares; a complex and intricate ecosystem closely linked to man's presence and activity.

* *Vegetation unique to a specific location or a defined area.*





Monte Orlando park

The area

Monte Orlando's Protected Area, located in the municipality of Gaeta and managed by the Park Authority, covers a 59-hectare area, plus a marine area of approximately 30 hectares.

With its characteristic rounded shape, Monte Orlando is linked to the mainland at north by a narrow strip of land and has a south facing rocky coastline with spectacular cliffs.

The area is affected by water corrosion; the rain

penetrates in the rocks and dissolves the calcium carbonate creating its many characteristic erosive features. Over time, even the sea has contributed to the appearance of the promontory as the motion of the waves carved and shaped the rocks leaving unmistakable marks on the shoreline (fossil traces show the old sea level). The rocks on Monte Orlando's promontory formed during the Cretaceous period - in an environment very similar to today's Bahamas archipelago - when huge amounts of marine organisms' calcareous shells were deposited on the seafloor. Millions of years later, they transformed into rocks and, during the last four million years, they



“ Flowered Euphorbia specimens ”



emerged from the bottom of the sea to appear as we see them today.

The vegetation

On Monte Orlando, climate, ground characteristics and human activity dating back since ancient times, have all contributed to affect and influence its vegetation that can be now classified as; rock vegetation, garrigue, low shrub and woodland. The woodland - the oldest part of the Park's vegetation - is predominantly holm oak, however a large part of the protected area is covered by pine trees and, in a smaller proportion downy oaks, introduced around 1850 by the Borbone family.

The areas most exposed to atmospheric agents, anthropogenic activity and the sea are the areas that present significantly less vegetation. The low-shrub areas are rich of species such as mastic, myrtle, Mediterranean buckthorn, rockrose and heather.

The garrigue is the most degraded part of the Mediterranean vegetation, it includes mainly herbaceous species (in great quantities), in particular hay and thin shrubs of rosemary and other bushes. The steep cliffs are home to the Aleppo pine - that practically hangs from small pockets of soil - the Phoenician Juniper, the Mediterranean dwarf palm - the only spontaneous palm in Europe - as well as the rare Sea Mallow and a tiny fern that grows in between the rocks, the *Asplenium petrarchae*.





“ Seagulls near a cliff ”

The wildlife

The wildlife on Monte Orlando has always been affected by human presence and by the geographical position. The most interesting species can be found in the less disturbed areas such as the cliffs, where the wallcreeper, the blue rock thrush, numerous seagulls and the common swift like to shelter.

The peregrine falcon is worth a special mention. The bird can often be spotted in the skies of the Park as it circles undisturbed in search of its next prey. Moving towards the centre of the protected area, one can find many species of Mediterranean birds: the common blackbird, the upupa, the Eurasian jay, and the kestrel. At night, it's not unusual to hear the cry of birds of prey such as the barn owl, the

little owl and the horned owl. Following the paths alongside the wood, under the Aleppo pines, looking carefully one can spot nibbled pinecones that look like tiny works of art, created by little rodents like the dormouse and the common vole. Reptiles include lizards, green whip snakes and three-toed skinks, while the common toad and the Hyla are the most numerous species among the amphibians.

The marine ecosystem

The marine area of the Park varies considerably in depth, starting from a minimum of 2 metres to a maximum of over 30 metres.

Among the many submerged caves, the most famous is





“Cicada sea in seafloors of Monte Orlando ”

the “Grotta del maresciallo”, at a depth of about 10 meters. The aquatic flora includes brown and red algae, sea lettuce, cladophora and what is left of an underwater Mediterranean tapeweed meadow, in which the last specimens of the noble pen shell find refuge.

The fauna includes spirographs, gorgonians, yellow cluster anemones, beadlet anemones, sea anemones, nudibranchs and starfish - in particular the red starfish - gastropods, bivalvia, sea hares, ringed worms (*Annelida*) and colourful sea sponges. Octopuses and different species of small crustaceans can also be found in the Park’s waters.

Among the fish, the sea bream, the red mullet, the green

wrasse, the diplodus, the Mediterranean rainbow wrasse, the red scorpionfish, the brown meagre, the common pandora, the sea bass, the Mediterranean moray and the groupers are all worth a mention, and it’s even possible to spot the odd seahorse.

The historical and archeological sites

The long-lasting signs of time and human activity on Monte Orlando have always attracted visitors.

The city of Gaeta was famous for its fortifications that played an important role during the course of the centuries within the Kingdom of Southern Italy. With Charles V,





“ Lucio Munazio Planco's mausoleum ”

Monte Orlando became an integral part of Gaeta's fortress, and towards the middle of the sixteenth century, plans started to enlarge the building towards the inland, in the direction of the isthmus; this was the beginning of a long series of military projects on the promontory. Bastions, batteries, gunpowder magazines and other buildings are still visible today all around the Park and give it a unique appearance.

Some of the buildings are particularly interesting and therefore worth mentioning: the so called ramparts of Charles V, the battery known as the Phillipsthal battery (includes the tombs of Price Phillipsthal and General Vallongue, who both played a crucial role in the siege of

Gaeta in 1806), the imposing Regina battery and the panoramic Trinità battery, near the famous Santuario della S.S. Trinità (Holy Trinity Sanctuary).

The Mausoleum of Lucio Munazio Planco, competence of the Archaeological Heritage Office, entrusted to the Riviera di Ulisse Park Authority, is currently managed by the ATS I Tesori dell'Arte Association that was awarded the tender to organize the archaeological site visits at Monte Orlando Park.

The Mausoleum is open to visitors at weekends. Opening hours are found on the website www.tesoriarte.it. Ad hoc opening hours and educational and leisure activities for groups can be arranged all year round.





The gunpowder magazines Carolina, Trabacco and Ferdinando are also worth a visit. The Trabacco and Ferdinando buildings have been transformed respectively into the Museo delle falesie e del Mare (Cliffs and Sea Museum) and a natural geology and palaeontology museum, and are open to the general public and to schools visits.

The museum area of the gunpowder magazines is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 12.30am. The rest of the week, visits can be booked calling 333 4749032 or 347 8890384.

How to get there

By Train: Take the Rome-Naples railway line and leave the train at Formia. From Formia Railway Station, take

the suburban bus that connects Formia to Gaeta. Leave the bus at the Hotel Mirasole stop in Gaeta. The Park information point is just 50m from the bus stop.

By Car: On the A1 motorway, if you are driving north exit at Cassino, if you are driving south exit at Frosinone, and follow the signs for Gaeta - Parco di Monte Orlando.

A visit to Monte Orlando park (Gaeta)

If you park your car in the “**Spalti**” **Car Park**, property of the municipality of Gaeta, you will find an information point at the entrance. The **information point** currently located at the entrance of Via Planco is run by the ATS I Tesori dell’Arte Association and is open at weekends.

You may download trial maps, with walking times and distances, from the website: www.parcorivieradiulisse.it





A smaller alternative free car park, on Batteria Malla-drone, is close to the very popular **Santuario della Santissima Trinità** (Sanctuary of the Holy Trinity). The **Grotta del Turco** (Turk's Cave) - a karst cave facing the sea - and the **Montagna Spaccata** (The Split Mountain) - a fissure in the rock that creates a spectacular effect - are definitely worth visiting.

A path on the left hand side as you exit the Grotta del Turco takes you to the Mausoleo Planco (Planco Mausoleum). The scenery along the way, with views of the sea form the cliffs, is beautiful.

The many **climbing routes** on the cliffs, all equipped by the Italian Alpine Club (CAI), are frequented all year round and are famous for dropping sheer to the sea. Sightings of the peregrine falcon make it the perfect climbing place.

The path crosses the areas where the three gunpowder magazines are located; the gunpowder magazines Carolina, Ferdinando and Trabacco - built by the Borbone family - were in use until the end of the Second World War. The buildings have now been transformed into museums, owned by the municipality of Gaeta and managed by the ATS Lavatera maritima Association, led by the Riviera di Ulisse Park Authority. **The Museum of Natural History and Geology and Palaeontology** is inside the Polveriera Ferdinando, the **Museo delle falesie e del mare** (Cliff and Sea Museum) is in the Polveriera Trabacco, while the recently restored Polveriera Carolina is used as a stage for small musical and theatrical events. **The museums area opening hours can be viewed at www.monteorlandomusei.it**

The itinerary continues - along a path with views of the



sea and the Pontine Islands - towards the **Mausoleum of Lucio Munazio Planco**.

Along the way you'll come across the battery headquarters, the **Comando Polveriere**, and a panoramic point from where you'll see Gaeta's isthmus with the sea on both sides. Leaving the Mausoleum along the tarmac road you will reach a very popular ring shaped track that includes a **fitness trial**. The ring shaped track has a **bird-watching path**, the perfect place for bird-watchers and ideal to observe the sky at night.

Once you have been all around the track, you'll arrive in the large Piazza Santa Maria Ausiliatrice where you can visit the **Batteria Monte Orlando Superiore**, managed by the ATS I Tesori dell'Arte Association.

You can continue downhill along the Sentiero del Ghiro (Dormouse Trial) or along Via Planco that ensures easy access for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

You can also explore Monte Orlando Park **on horseback** along a dedicated path - excursions are organised by the Equitrek La Selva Association (mobile n. 328 0492710) - or on Mountain bikes, only along a specific and adequately marked track.

During the summer you can enjoy snorkelling, deep diving and breath-hold diving along **amazing submerged itineraries** between 2 and 40 metres deep (and take any certified diving course) organised by the Nature Trend Association (mobile n. 393 9245839) and:

Organiser	Contact person	Mobile N.	E-mail / Web
Circolo Sub Karin Diving	Gennaro Iovane	339 2926149	info@karindiving.it www.karindiving.it
Circosub Aquasphera	Remo Sposito	339 6481389	cardi3@interfree.it
Formia da mare	Gianluca Marvaso	392 2261172	lucadiver@hotmail.com
GegeSUB Diving	Eugenio Fantasia	347 1753622	info@gegesub.com www.gegesub.com
Neptun u.s.s.	Umberto Cortesi	338 4056173	ucortesi@sogei.it
Scuba Diving club	Stefano Nanni	334 5790080	scubadivingclubgaeta@libero.it www.scubadivingclub.net
Società Subacquea Calypso	Francesco Accica	328 6874520	fipsasisernial@virgilio.it
The Moonfish	Gianluca Marcucci	327 6962362	marcucci.gianluca@gmail.com
Vivere il Mare	Pasqualino De Luca	331 3637058	asdvivereilmare@gmail.com vivereilmare.wix.com/subacquea
Charter Nautico Sperlonga	Annalisa Costantino	347 2634222	info@chartersperlonga.it www.chartersperlonga.it
Dario SeaTour	Dario Vecchio	340 5999250	dario@darioseatour.it www.darioseatour.it
Santa Paziienza Noleggio	Alessandro La Rocca	348 7634261	santapaziienza74@gmail.com www.sperlongaescursioni.it





“ Museum of natural history and geology and palaeontology ”

Monte Orlando Park has a **Bar** and **Restaurant** located near the Sanctuary. The public toilets are in the gunpowder magazines area; the key is available at the Polveriera Ferdinando. There is a chemical toilet near the Batteria Anulare and the key is available within the same building. In the Park grounds you will find various souvenir and gadget shops.

The Park offers a range of services aimed to promoting and protecting the environment and its historical heritage:

- Accompanied excursions in the Park, led by the official park keepers appointed by the Park Authority

(mobile n. 346 3270019) as part of environmental education activities and school trips - free for schools within the municipal districts included in the Park.

- Naturalist guided visits and workshops, organised (for a fee) by ATS Lavatera maritima, (mobile n. 333 4749032 347 8890384).
- History and heritage guided visits, organised (for a fee) by ATS I Tesori dell'Arte (tel. 0771 286217).
- Accompanied excursions in the Park, led by local associations, appointed by the Park Authority, that collaborate in the events' organization.
- Artistic and cultural events such as art exhibitions, theatrical performances and reconstructions of historical





events organised by groups and associations that share the same objectives as the Park Authority.

- Horseback excursions in the Park, organised by the Equitrek La Selva Association appointed by the Park Authority (mobile n. 328 0492710).
- Environmental and educational activities for youngsters in collaboration with the Arte Nativa Association (mobile n. 348 3820143), appointed by the Park Authority.
- Snorkelling, diving and breath-hold diving and certified training courses, organised in collaboration with the Nature Trend Association (mobile n. 393 9245839), appointed by the Park Authority.
- Shuttle bus service - Saturdays and Sundays during June and September; almost every day during July and August. The rest of the year, the service is available upon request for groups and schools. The company Cervone (tel. 0771 462521) offers an alternative service for groups of minimum eight people.

Projects to protect, manage and promote the natural ecosystems and flora and fauna habitats of interest for the Community within the Monte Orlando area:

- Mapping of the seafloor to assess the feasibility of the potential project to replant the Mediterranean tapeweed meadows in the areas managed by the Park Authority.



“ Sant’Angelo building (piece) ”



- Ringing of the young Audouin’s gulls.
- Creating and managing the Wildlife Rescue Centre, managed by the Park staff.
- Installing camera traps to monitor larger mammals to confirm the presence within the Park of crested porcupines, hedgehogs and foxes.

Projects to protect, asses and improve the Park:

- Restoration of the headquarters building of the former barracks of Sant’Angelo a Gaeta to host the new offices of the Riviera di Ulisse Regional Park.
- Creation of a fully equipped area for dogs. A low-cost project carried out entirely by the Park Authority’s staff.
- Partial restoration of Gaeta’s former Casina Reale and

its botanical garden; re-roofing, structural reinforcement and restoration of the façade on Via Angioina. The former Casina Reale will have a tourist information point dedicated to the Via Francigena del Sud. The building, designed to enable disabled people to gain access, will become an important point of reference offering services to the visitors of the routes along the Via Francigena del Sud. Technical work, paving, installation of doors, windows and furnishings is still under way.

- Urgent reconnaissance of the sea floor opposite Monte Orlando of Gaeta, to identify any remnants of war.
- The ongoing restoration of a portion of the building part of the former barracks of S. Angelo will create a youth hostel in the municipality of Gaeta.



















Monte Orlando park

Gaeta Medioevale

Aragonese castle

Tirrenian Sea

- 1 S. Andrew lookout and battery
 - 2 Philippsthal entrenchment (Momonent and tomb)
 - 3 Philippsthal and Rivelino battery
 - 4 Platform battery
 - 5 Five Floor fortress
 - 6 Sawtooth battery
 - 7 Sawtooth lookout
 - 8 Mallardone battery
 - 9 Trinity laboratory
 - 10 Trinity fortress
 - 11 Transilvania battery (ruins)
 - 12 Malpasso battery (ruins)
 - 13 Sanctuary of the Holy Trinity
 - 14 Split Mountain - Turk's Cave
 - 15 Carolina gunpowder magazine
 - 16 Ferdinando gunpowder magazine (Geology and Paleontology museum)
 - 17 Trabacco battery
 - 18 Trabacco gunpowder magazine (Sea museum)
 - 19 Gunpowder magazines command
 - 20 Upper Monte Orlando battery (Historical itinerary)
 - 21 Battery command for upper Monte Orlando
 - 22 Lucio Munazio Planco mausoleum
 - 23 Lower Monte Orlando battery
 - 24 Regina battery (old and new)
 - 25 Roman cisterns
 - 26 Ancient covered road
 - 27 Statue of Maria Ausiliatrice
-  Fitness itinerary  Freeclimbing
-  Birdwatching  Sea views
-  Scuba diving  Lighthouse
-  Bar- Restaurant  Park office - informations
-  Bus stop - Shuttle  Information poster  Sentry-box
-  Ghiro path
-  Falesie path
-  Path to Gaeta Medioevale
-  Ornitologico itinerary
-  Didactic itinerary Frontignan





“ Mount of Gianola overview ”

Gianola e Monte di Scauri park

The area

Located in the south of Lazio, within the municipal districts of Formia and Minturno, the Park covers a total area of 292 hectares, plus the 30-hectare marine coastal area managed by the Riviera di Ulisse Park Authority. Thanks to its position at the foothills of the Aurunci Mountains, the Park benefits from a mild Mediterranean climate and therefore makes it enjoyable to visit all year round.

The rocks on the promontory are sedimentary

(conglomerates of varied fragments with calcareous cement), while the coast towards Formia has dunes, more or less recent (Holocene-Pleistocene), that are predominantly of sandy composition. In the inland, there is evidence of sink-holes in karst areas filled with debris from the eruptions of the Roccamonfina Volcano. Therefore, the rocks within the Gianola and Monte di Scauri Park have two different origins: they either are the result of the erosion of existing calcareous rocks (Cretaceous-Miocene), or are linked to the activity of the Roccamonfina Volcano (Miocene-Pliocene).



“Orchid along a path ”



The flora

The Park has many varieties of plants.

The Mediterranean vegetation covers a considerable portion of the protected area, but in some parts it has evolved into wood-pastures or proper woods. Closer to the sea, and thanks to its effects, the vegetation's characteristics change and revert to the typically Mediterranean shrub. The cork oak is the most common tree in the Park, covering nearly completely the northern side and stretching to the coast. Other oak species, such as the holm oak and the downy oak, are present but less

common. The bushwood mainly includes evergreen shrubs like heather, strawberry-trees and other long-stemmed woody vines, such as the rough bindweed and the honeysuckle. The low shrubs include mainly myrtle, mastic, Phillyrea, and some species of bloom and rock-rose. There are also a few ceratonias and on the south-east side one can find the beautiful Aleppo pines.

The cliff rocks exposed to the sea are home to the rock sea fennel - an aromatic plant traditionally used by fishermen. Among the species with large flowers, depending on the season, one can find asphodels, cyclamens, irises and many other fascinating wild orchids.





“ Specimen of the Hoopoe ”

The wildlife

The fauna of the Gianola and Monte di Scauri Park is particularly influenced by the peculiar environment conditions of the promontory, and therefore confined in small areas in limited numbers. Due to its geographical position, along the Tyrrhenian coast, the area plays an important environmental role as it is strategically positioned allowing birds to stop and rest during the migratory period.

The coast is populated mainly by the black-headed and the yellow-legged gull, the great cormorant and other typical inhabitants of the rocks, such as the common

swift and the peregrine falcon. The terrestrial animals can be divided in two categories; those that live in the woods and those that live on dry grassland covered mainly in *ampelodesma* (locally known as “*stramma*”).

The cork oaks are inhabited by the upupa, the Eurasian wryneck, the tawny owl, the blackcap, the great tit, the Eurasian blue tit and other species that live in the Mediterranean vegetation, such as the Sardinian warbler and the subalpine warbler. The chaffinch, the serin, the greenfinch and many other passerines live in the grassland. Mammals in the protected area of Gianola and Monte Scauri Park are well represented by hedgehogs, foxes,





badgers, crested porcupines, weasels, and other species of small mammals, such as the bank vole, the wood mouse and the shrew mouse.

The reptiles in the Park are western green lizards, western Hermann's tortoise, as well as other species of lizards and snakes such as the green whip snake and the four-lined snake.

The marine ecosystem

The seafloor along the coast of the Park's protected area is both rocky and sandy. This allows many different species of plants and animals to find their ideal habitat

and makes the area particularly interesting from a naturalistic point of view. The area just above the shoreline is populated by colonies of gastropods and small crustaceans, such as the marbled rock crab; the intertidal zone, above water at low tide and under water at high tide, is populated by brown and green algae. The submerged reefs are home to the tompot blenny, the diplodus, the Salema porgy, the red mullet and the comber. Large submerged meadows of Mediterranean tapeweed and little Neptune grass grow on the sandy seafloors; these marine plants have proper flowers and fruits and are a safe refuge for many species, like the





seahorse who anchors itself to the Mediterranean tapeweed or to the gorgonians using its tail.

The historical and archeological sites

Within the Gianola protected area there are ruins of a villa that dates back to Roman times - built around 50 B.C. - it was probably owned by Mamurra, a knight from Formia, who lived during republican times. The ruins of different parts of the villa cover a vast area, but despite being far apart, they all form part of the same building.

Visitors will also notice the two tanks, one known as the

“thirty-six column tank”, located next to the villa, the other as the “greater” tank. Both are interesting for the construction techniques adopted to build them. The “Grotta della Janara” (The Janara Cave) is a corridor-like cave that includes rest areas, used to connect the Temple of Giano with the thermal baths below. The baths unfortunately have not been preserved.

According to a local legend the area was frequented by witches, the “janare”, hence the name of the cave. The small harbour, known as “Roman” harbour, despite its name, wasn’t used to moor boats, but included a system of tanks the Romans used as a fish farm. The two piers



“ The Parco Sospeso (adventure park) ”

we see today were built only in the 1930s.

How to get there

By Train: Take the Rome-Naples railway line and leave the train at Formia. From Formia Rail Station take the suburban bus that connects Formia to Scauri. The ATP line stops at Via delle Vigne near the old Gianola camping site. Follow the road until you reach Via del Porticciolo, and then turn right. You will find the Park's information point after 200m.

By Car: On the A1 motorway, if you are driving north exit at Cassino, if you are driving south exit at Frosinone, and follow first the signs for Formia, then carry on in

direction of Minturno on the Via Appia. Follow the signs for Gianola.

A visit to Gianola e Monte di Scauri park

Maps of the tracks, including times and distances, can be downloaded from the website: www.parcorivieradiulisse.it If you park your car in the Car Park on Via del Porticciolo, you will find the information point within the car park. It observes the same opening hours as the Parco Avventura nearby.

The Parco Avventura (Adventure Park) has eight installations for youngsters and a track for smaller children and is open all year round on Sundays and for booked visits,





and every day in July and August (for information and bookings, please call 339 3300377).

Walking along Via del Porticciolo take the “Sentiero di Mamurra” path on the right; it’s a pleasant walk to the archaeological sites of Gianola Park - with ruins of the Roman Villa of Mamurra and beautiful views of the Gulf of Gaeta and the Aurunci Mountains. The path ends at the small beach opposite the little harbour (Porticciolo) from where one can return to Via del Porticciolo and the car park. From here you may continue your itinerary along the “Sentiero del Crinale” path or along the “Sentiero di Porto Cofanello” path. Both offer beautiful views and multi-coloured flowers in spring.

Alternatively, you can park along the coastal road at Scauri, from where you can walk to the information point in Scauri - on Via di Monte Scauri - and follow a path that takes to the antique megalithic Walls of Pyrae and Monte d’Oro Tower. If you continue along the coast you will reach a very characteristic pebble beach.

Within the Gianola and Monte di Scauri Park, near the

information point of Gianola, you will find a Restaurant and public toilets - the keys are available at the information point.

The Park offers the following services:

- Accompanied excursions, led by the official park keepers (mobile n. 340 9055539), as part of environmental education activities and school trips - free for schools within the municipal districts included in the Park.
- Promotion of accompanied excursions organised by the association Ambiente & Natura è Vita (mobile n. 333 4749032), approved by the Park Authority.
- Snorkelling and diving courses and certifications in collaboration with the association Nature Trend (393 9245839), approved by the Park Authority.

Projects to protect, manage and improve the natural ecosystems and the flora and fauna habitats of interest for the Community within the Gianola and Monte di





“ The small harbour of Gianola ”

Scauri area:

- Creation of a permanent scientific bird ringing centre and participation to the project “Piccole Isole” sponsored by ISPRA (Institute for Environmental Protection and Research).
- The Germplasm Bank that aims to conserve and increase the Aleppo Pine population is currently up and running and managed by the Park Authority.
- Installation of artificial nest boxes for the horned owl,

upupa and kestrel.

- Installation of camera traps to monitor larger mammals and confirm the presence within the Park of badgers, crested porcupines, hedgehogs and foxes.

Projects to protect, maintain and improve the Park:

- “Parco Avventura” expansion. The plan is to add three new installations alongside the existing five, one of which dedicated to smaller children.





“ Bird ringing activity - Great reed warbler ”

Ongoing projects:

- Biodiversity Research Lab and Turtle Rescue Centre with annexed guest house. The project aims to protect and improve the environment and promote tourism within the “Afan De Rivera” Estate owned by the Park Authority. The objective is to protect marine biodiversity and rehabilitate sea turtles as part of the Mediterranean Sea conservation plan covered by the Washington Convention. The building will include 3 bedrooms and a kitchen-living room.
- Environment-friendly accommodation facility within the former SIECI building complex in Scauri di Minturno. The plan involves restructuring some of the old industrial buildings within the complex to obtain an eco-hotel with its own sustainable energy source. Once it is completed, the facility - planned and built





following eco-friendly and bio-architectural solutions - will greatly improve the former SIECI archaeological industry complex and at the same time provide a valuable solution to the local tourist industry, as it is positioned in one of the most beautiful locations along Scauri's coast, close to the protected area of Gianola and Monte di Scauri.

- “Progetto il Parco Solare” for the Lab.Ter (Territory Laboratory of Environmental Education) and the eco-hotel. A project to create a photovoltaic power system with a rain harvesting system, a recycling system for the building's grey waters and a wind energy power system educational kit within Scauri's Lab.Ter. Currently the Lab.Ter. building is not only





“ Infopoint of Gianola ”

energy self-sufficient, it's also eco-friendly thanks to the grey water recycling and rain harvesting systems that can be used to provide irrigation and toilet water. While the educational kit is a useful tool to demonstrate how the wind energy power system works. Once all work is completed, the accommodation facility will be able to produce most of the energy it needs, in line with the energy-saving and environmentally friendly policies of the Park.

- Improvement of the Archaeological walk. The project consists in upgrading, maintaining and reopening part of the routes within the green archaeological area of

Monte di Gianola to improve access in certain areas (the “octagonal building”, the “masonry canal”, the “stone steps”, the “thirty-six column tank” and the “Grotta della Janara” cave), and at the same time improve the visitors’ experience by getting rid of the weeds, clearing the surface of the tracks and resting areas, replacing pavements, fences, signs and other features within the park.

- Improvement of the villa known as “Mamura’s Villa” in Gianola, along the Via Appia. The first part of the project involves restoring the main and most important part of the villa - the octagonal building - that



“ A piece of Giano’s temple ”



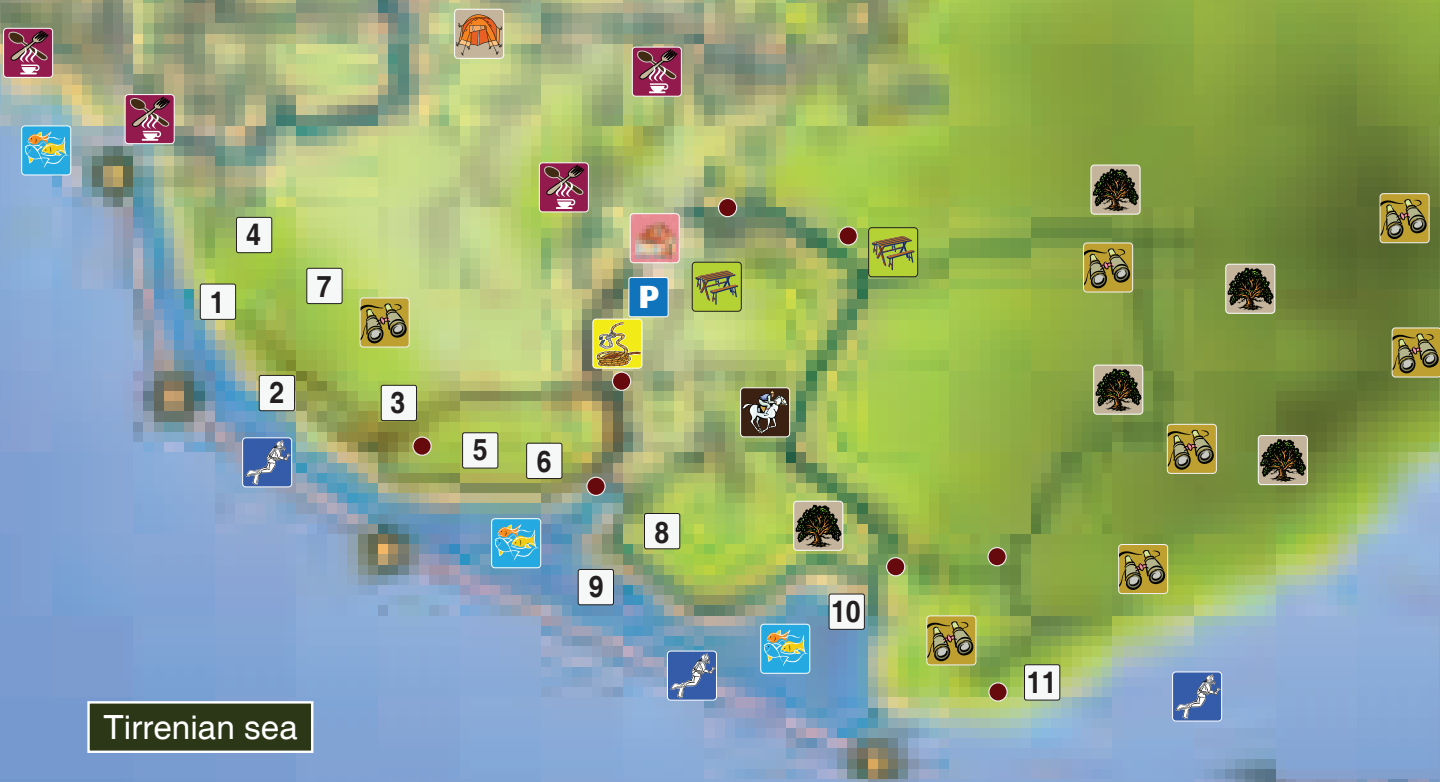
covers an area of about 1500m² but in its current post-war condition cannot be fully appreciated. This requires: preliminary architectural and archaeological evaluations; identification and classification of the building's fragments; removal and where necessary temporary structural reinforcement of the remains; further excavating to reach the original street levels and land structural and geological surveys to recover part of the octagonal building. The restoration will take place in the north-west part of the building where some of the external walls are carved directly into the original rock and where the apse reaches its original height and parts

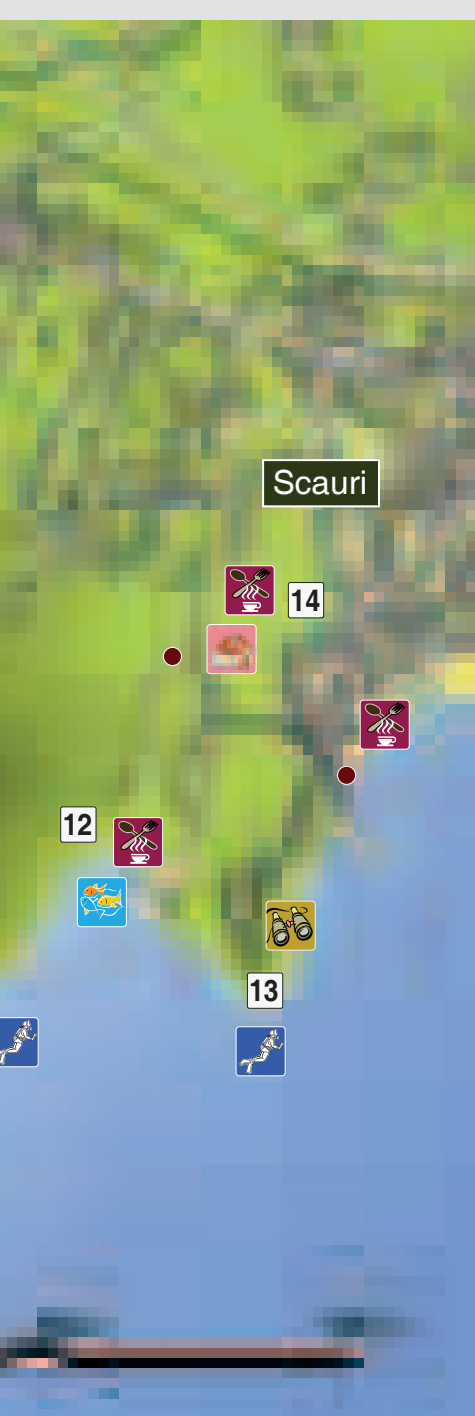
of the vaults are still intact. Reconstruction work will include removing ruins and excavating, preserving, recomposing and restoring parts of the building, the floors and the wall decorations; repositioning and replacing parts of the structure to reconstruct the rooms, and integrating the green areas with the existing vegetation to bring the site back to the condition it was in before the war. The restoration plan also includes soil bioengineering interventions and the creation of itineraries for visitors that will put the restored areas in context with the rest of the remains of the building within the original perimeter walls.


















Gianola e Monte di Scauri park

Gianola





- 1 36 Colonne cistern
 - 2 Janara cave
 - 3 Maggiore cistern
 - 4 Foce tower
 - 5 Castellum Aquae
 - 6 Tower of Gianola
 - 7 Giano's temple
 - 8 Roman pools - Porticciolo
 - 9 German sentry-box
 - 10 Cofaniello port
 - 11 Fico tower
 - 12 Sassolini beach
 - 13 Tower of Scauri
 - 14 Mulini tower
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Birdwatching |  Scuba diving |
|  Seawatching |  Hippotherapy - Riding school |
|  Adventure park |  Cork oak forest |
|  Camping |  Pic-nic area |
|  Bar - Restaurant |  Park office - Information |
|  Information poster | |
-  Mamurra itinerary
 -  Porto Cofaniello path
 -  Crinale path
 -  Monte d'Oro path





“ Overview of Natural monument of Sperlonga ”

Natural monument of Sperlonga

The area

The entire protected area is part of the municipality of Sperlonga, a popular location since Roman times and famous for its natural beauty. To preserve its environment and historical heritage, the area between the hill of Tiberius' Villa and Punta Cetarola is all protected. Currently, this is an 83-hectare area, plus a marine area of 41 hectares along the coast from Tiberius' Villa to the cliffs of Punta Cetarola, on the border between the municipalities of Itri and Gaeta. Also the marine area along the coast in front of the Natural Monument is part

of the protected area and subject to special regulations.

The flora

The Mediterranean vegetation covers most of the ground within and around the Natural Monument of Sperlonga. The great variety of plants and bushes allows many species of animals to find their perfect habitat. Heather, mastic, Phoenician juniper, rosemary, myrtle and two different types of rockrose grow all around the park. Among the trees, the Aleppo pine - that grows in the most internal part of the protected area - the holly oak and the ceratonia are all worth mentioning.

It's also interesting to note that quite a few specimens of





“ Villa di Tiberio promontory natural path ”

the dwarf fan palm can be found along the paths of the protected area.

The fauna and the marine ecosystem

The protected area hosts many animals such as reptiles, small mammals, birds and a wide range of marine organisms populate the sea floor.

Walking along the paths, immersed in the silence of the park, one can notice the upupa, the peregrine falcon, the kestrel and other sea birds such as the yellow-legged and the black-headed gull, the great black cormorant and the common kingfisher fly across the sky. Traces of badger, hedgehog and crested porcupine activity are also a common sight. As for the marine environment, the amazing variety of fish and invertebrate creatures make this protected area a particularly interesting spot for

enthusiastic divers. The common two-banded sea bream, the Sharpsnout sea bream, the ornate wrasse and the dusky grouper all swim in these waters.

Historical and archeological heritage

The name Sperlonga, from “spelunca” the Latin word for cave, hints to the fact that the area has many caves and caverns that still show traces of their prehistoric inhabitants. The fact that Strabone and Plinio mention them in their works is a sign of the fact that this part of the world was very much appreciated by the Romans. In the National Archaeological Museum one can admire sculptures representing passages of the Odyssey. Interesting findings from the Capovento Tower are evidence of the battles of the local population against the barbaric hordes, particularly during the period in which



“ Specimens of dwarf palm ”



the famous sixteen century pirate Kain-el-Dir - also known as Barbarossa - was active.

The ruins of the old Via Flacca, built in 184 B.C. to connect Terracina to Gaeta, are visible from the paths along the coast of the Protected Area.

How to get there

By Train: Take the Rome-Naples railway line and leave the train at Fondi-Sperlonga. From the Railway Station take the bus (Cotral line) that connects the station to either Gaeta or Formia; both stop at Sperlonga's Archaeological Museum. From there you can walk to the

entrance of the archaeological area.

Maps of the tracks, including times and distances, can be downloaded from the website: www.parcorivieradiulisse.it

Existing facilities:

Natural-archaeological walk that starts from the Archaeological Museum of Sperlonga.

The Park offers the following services:

- Promotion of accompanied excursions organised by local associations.
- Snorkelling and diving courses and certifications





organised in collaboration with the association “Nature Trend” (3939245839), approved by the Park Authority.

Projects to protect, manage and promote the natural ecosystems and the flora and fauna habitats of interest for the Community within the Natural Monument of Sperlonga:

- Installation of camera traps to monitor the larger mammal population.
- Implementation of conservation measures within the Special Protected Area (SPA) “Rocky coast between Sperlonga and Gaeta”. The study has been completed,

approved by the Park Authority and presented to the territorial authorities involved.

Ongoing projects for the protection, maintenance and promotion of the area:

- Recovery and promotion of the historical-cultural heritage and landscape. The project involves recovering the ruins of the Via Fiacca Antica, located within the municipality of Sperlonga, with the aim of protecting and recovering the archaeological heritage and opening it to the public. Experts are currently evaluating an hydrogeological instability issue that is preventing the planned work from taking place.



Sperlonga

Natural monument of Sperlonga

10

1

2

3

6

11

Tirrenian Sea







5

4

7





- ① National archaeological museum
- ② Ruins of Villa di Tiberio ③ Tiberio' cave
- ④ Ruins of ancient Via Flacca ⑤ Ruins of Capovento tower
- ⑥ Villa di Tiberio promontory
- ⑦ Capovento cape ⑧ Cetarola cape ⑨ Natural cave
- ⑩ Angolo beach ⑪ Bazzano beach
- ⑫ Bambole beach
-  Birdwatching  Scuba diving  Seawatching
-  Aleppo pines
-  Camping  Bar - Restaurant
- Information poster ~ Villa di Tiberio natural path



Projects within the protected areas of the Park

It's obvious that the entire planning process and the current projects and regulations need to be reassessed. The urban planning review of the entire protected area is under way, in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture of the Sapienza University of Rome that has included the project in its programme.

The Provincial Authority of Latina and the Municipality

of Sperlonga signed a Memorandum of Intent with the Harbourmaster Office of Gaeta to manage the supervision of the marine areas competence of the Park; the agreement includes leasing a boat - owned by the Park Authority - to the Harbourmaster Office of Gaeta to be used to monitor the area. The project is under way.

A request has been submitted to "Create a Regional Marine Protected Area along the coast of the protected areas managed by the Park Authority" in accordance with the Regional Law n. 5 29/97;

To find out about events, guided visits, environmental educational programmes, view the ongoing plans and the currently applicable regulations, obtain the Park's Approval, a sponsorship or a contribution, request a permit, find information about the institutional activities of the Riviera di Ulisse Park Authority, please visit www.parcorivieradiulisse.it.

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